Princess Jellyfish

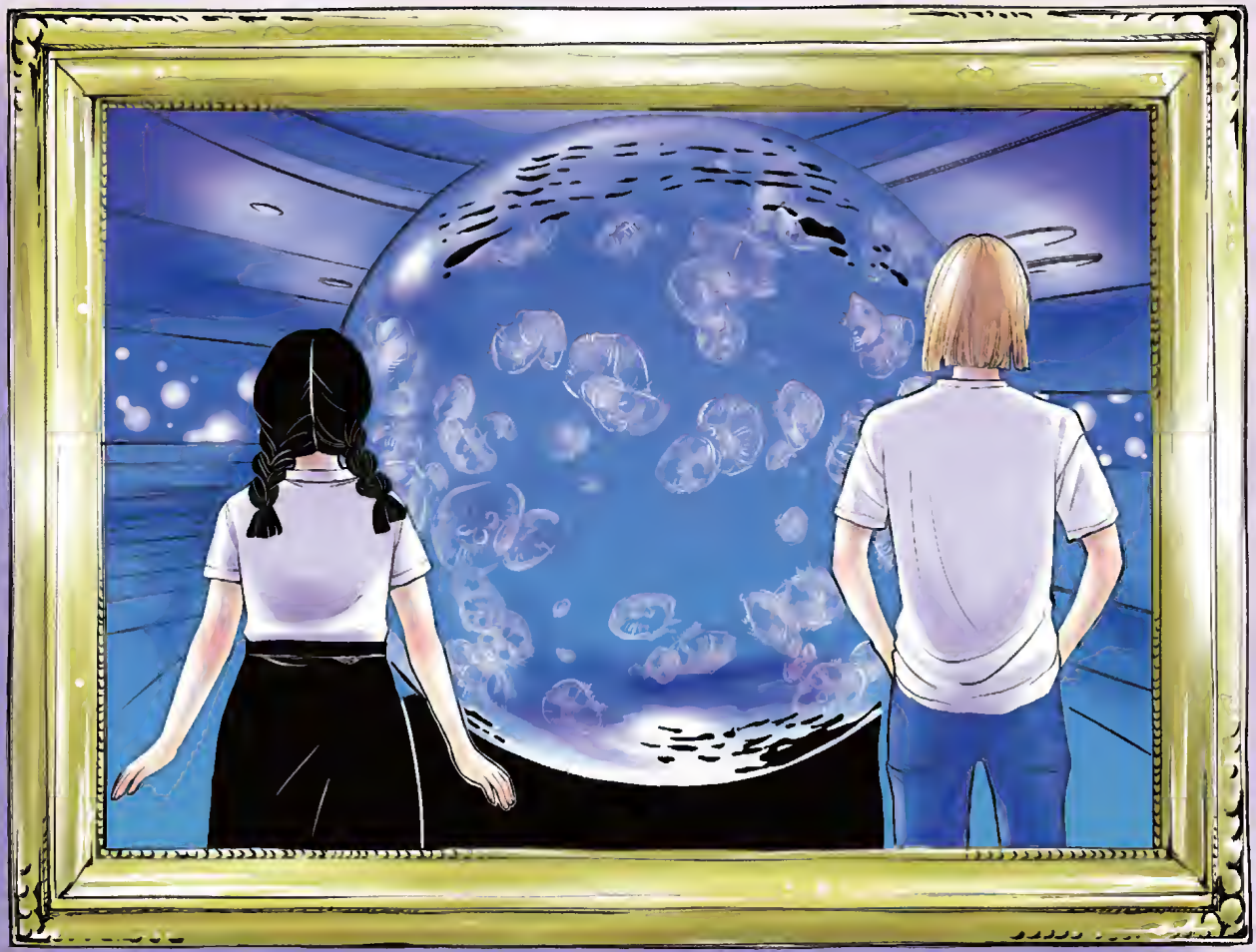
KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

CHAPTER 84

AKIKO HIGASHIMURA

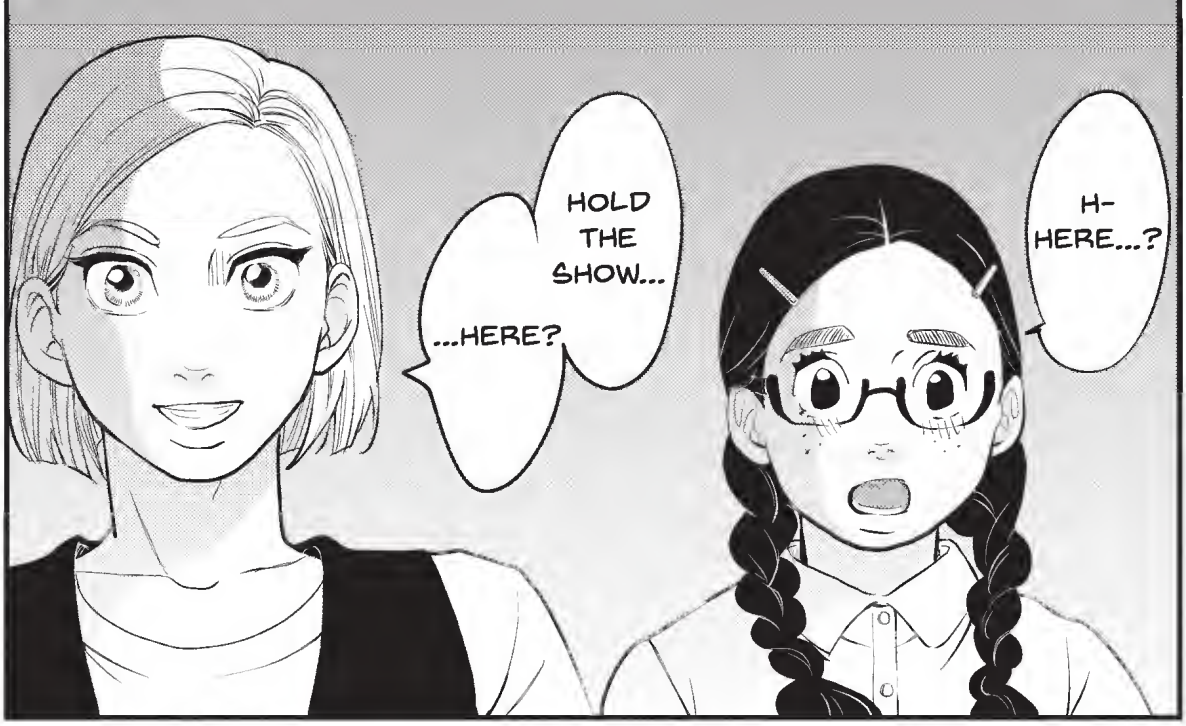
Princess Jellyfish

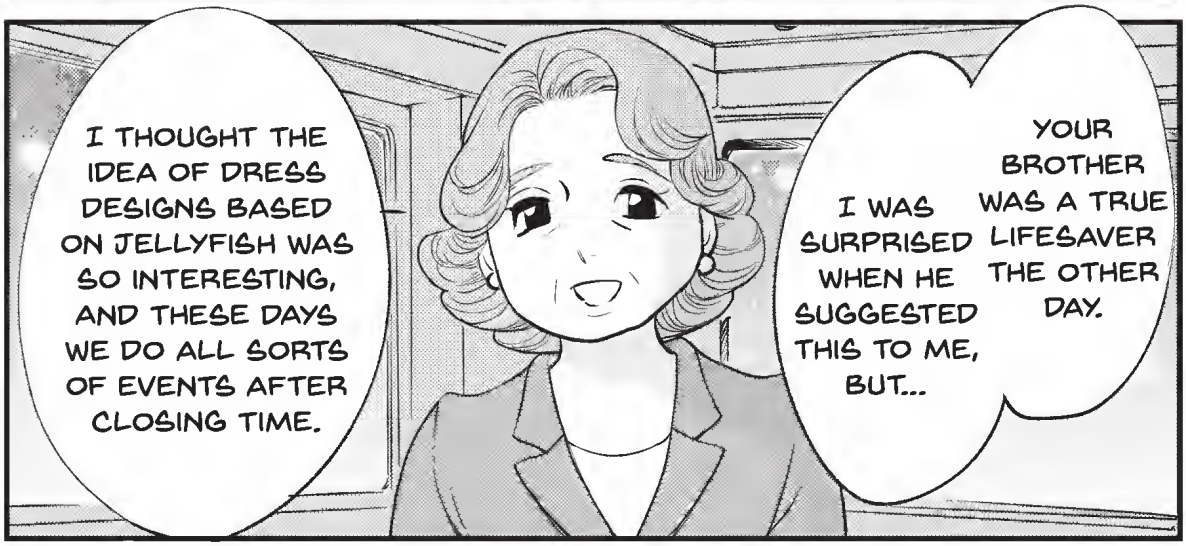
Episode 84 "Princess Jellyfish"



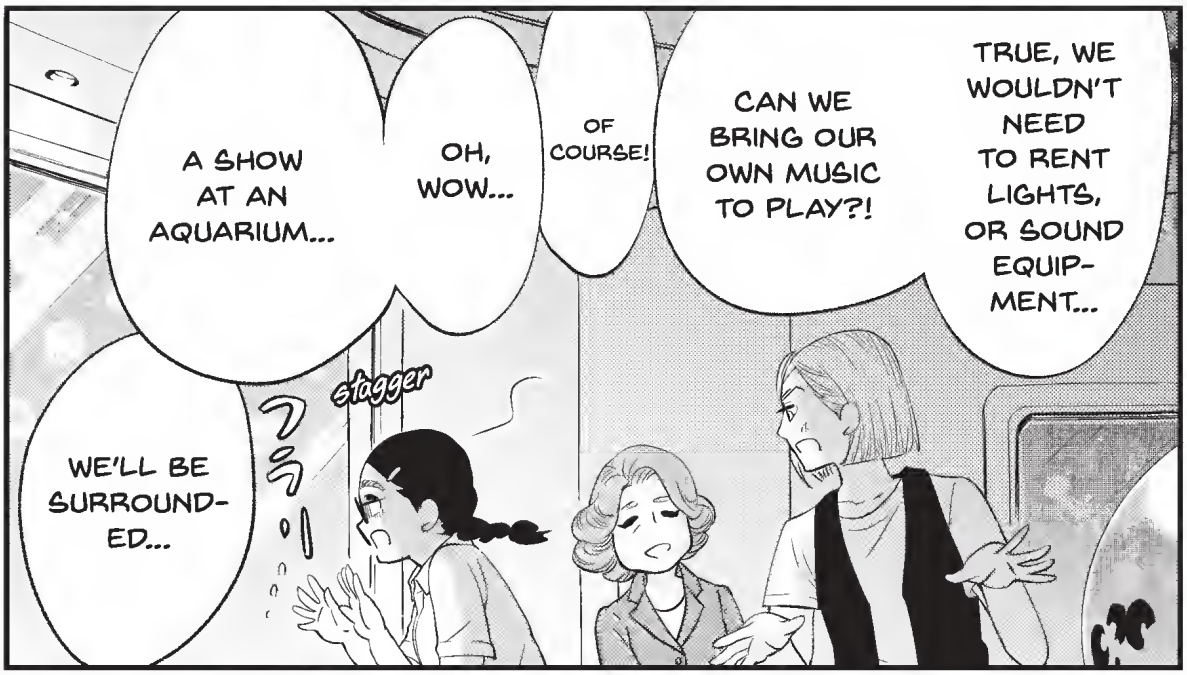
Akiko Higashimura

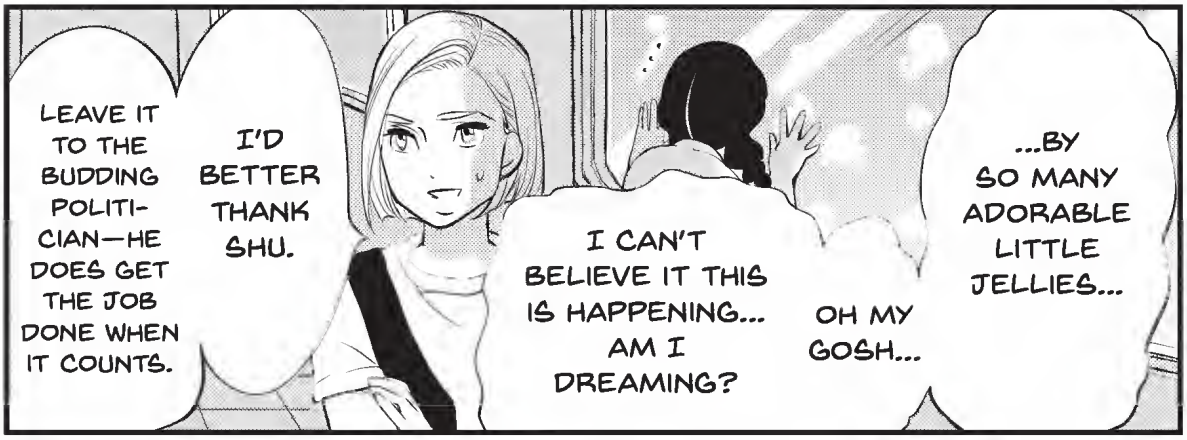
I'LL PICK YOU UP AT THE AIRPORT THAT DAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO MY FATHER.
YES.
IT'LL BE HELD AT THE NEW ENOSHIMA AQUARIUM.

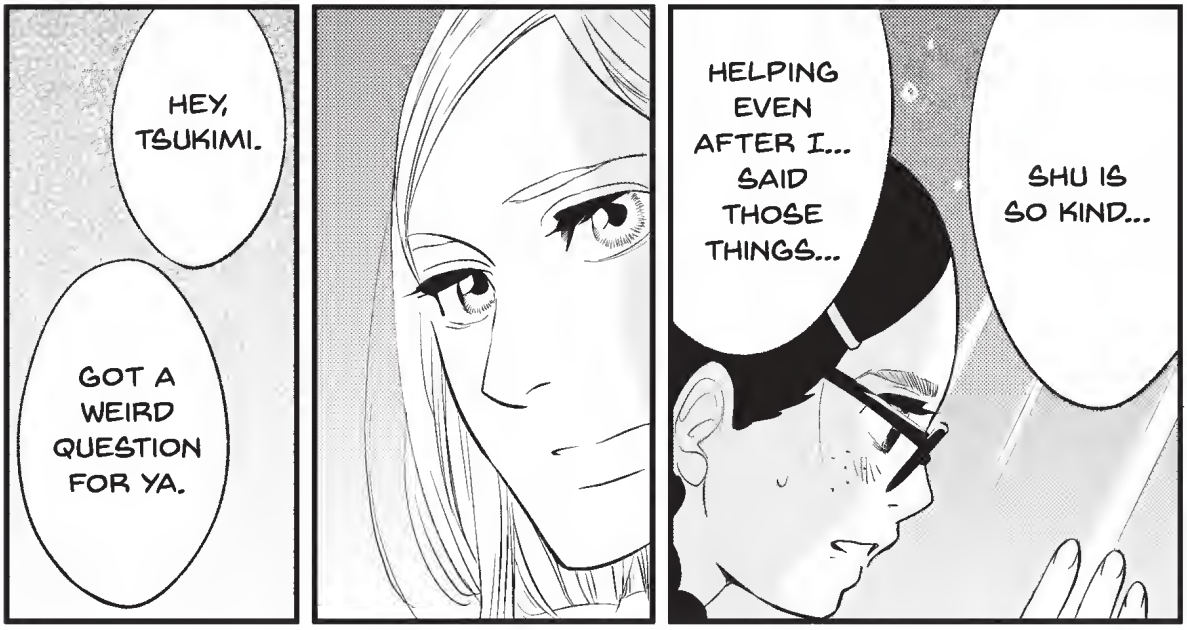

H-HERE...?
HOLD THE SHOW...
...HERE?

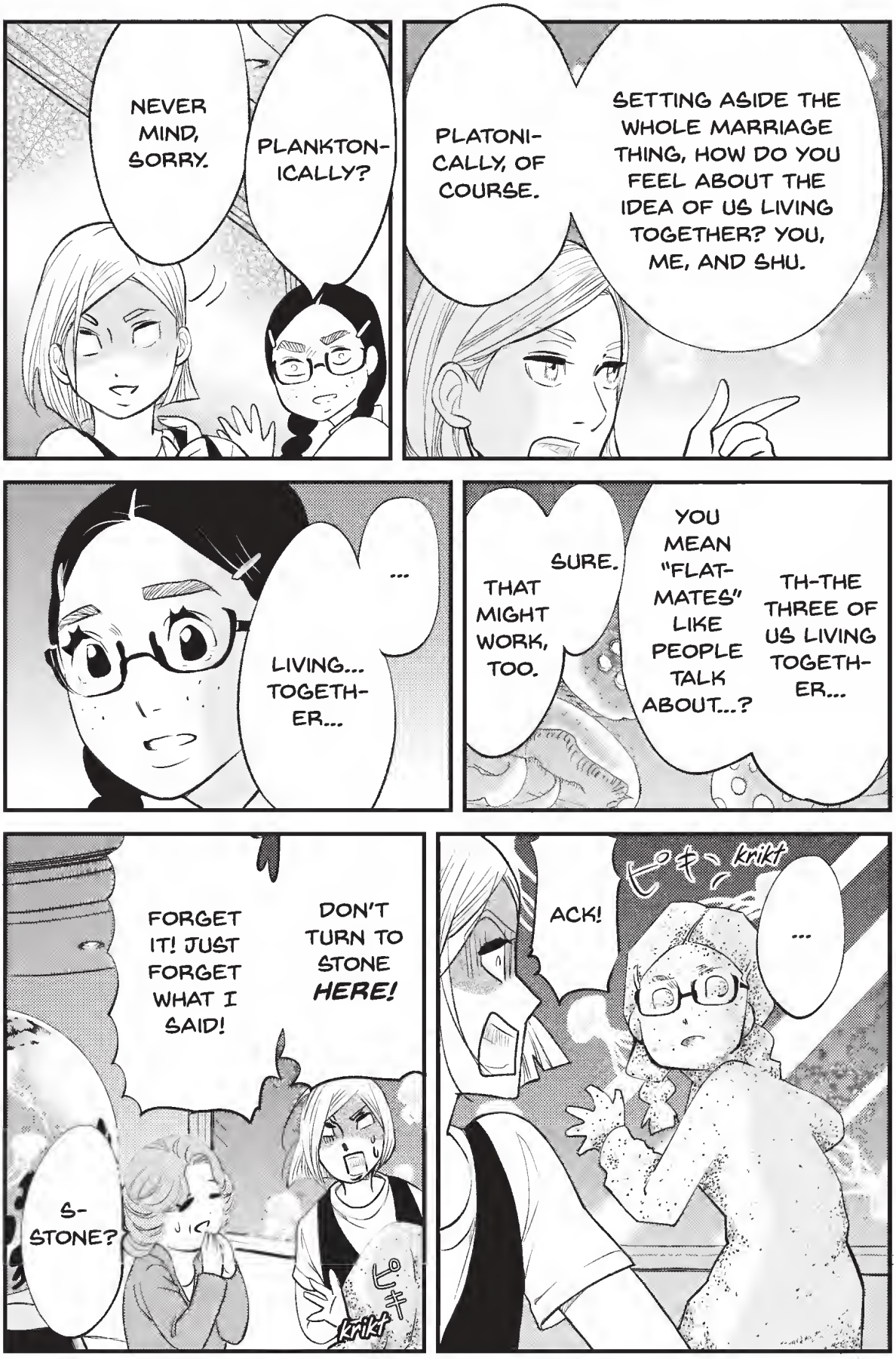

I THOUGHT THE IDEA OF DRESS DESIGNS BASED ON JELLYFISH WAS SO INTERESTING, AND THESE DAYS WE DO ALL SORTS OF EVENTS AFTER CLOSING TIME.
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE SUGGESTED THIS TO ME, BUT...
YOUR BROTHER WAS A TRUE LIFESAVER THE OTHER DAY.

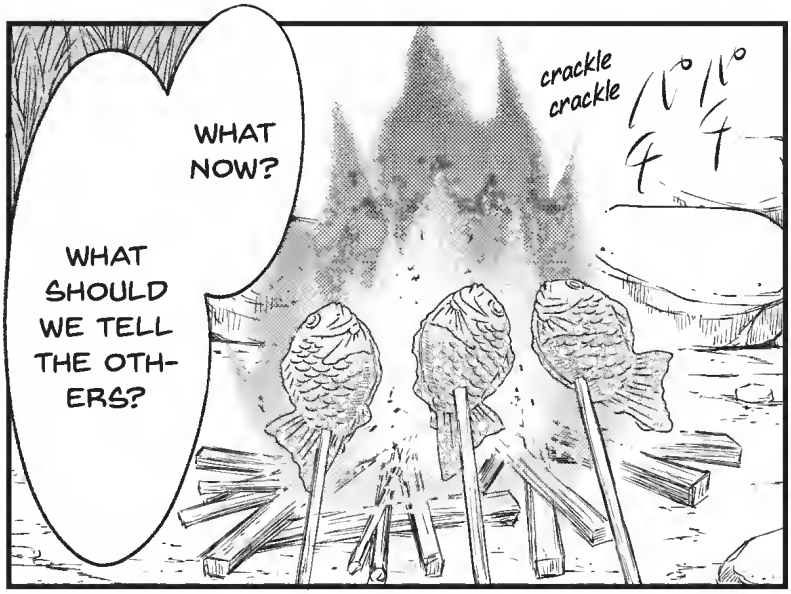
WE'RE EVEN PLANNING FOR A STAGE PLAY.
SO, WE HOST CONCERTS AND POETRY READINGS...
Aquarium Night Concert
夜の水族館で音を奏でる
2017.8.18.fri
朗読
夜のうた
水族館で一夜限りのお芝居!!
水族館。
AQUARIUMS CLOSE AT 5:00, AND WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE NOT TO USE THE REST OF THE EVENING FOR SOMETHING?

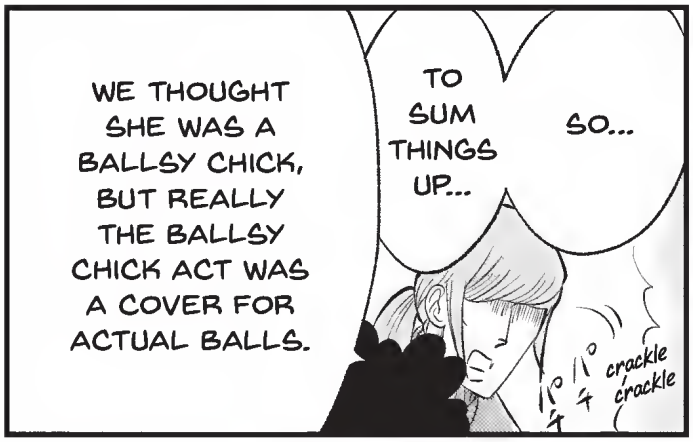

TRUE, WE WOULDN'T NEED TO RENT LIGHTS, OR SOUND EQUIP-MENT...
CAN WE BRING OUR OWN MUSIC TO PLAY?!
OF COURSE!
OH, WOW...
A SHOW AT AN AQUARIUM...
WE'LL BE SURROUND-ED...
stagger

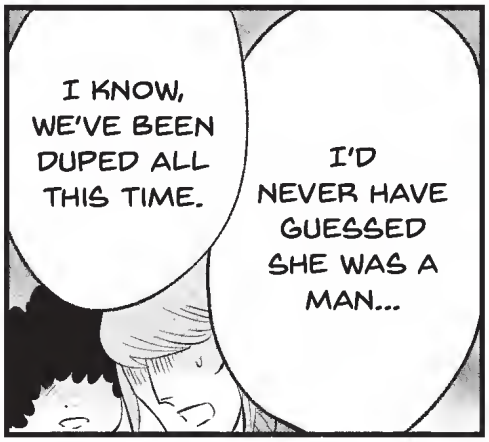

...BY SO MANY ADORABLE LITTLE JELLIES...
OH MY GOSH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT THIS IS HAPPENING... AM I DREAMING?
I'D BETTER THANK SHU.
LEAVE IT TO THE BUDDING POLITI-CIAN—HE DOES GET THE JOB DONE WHEN IT COUNTS.

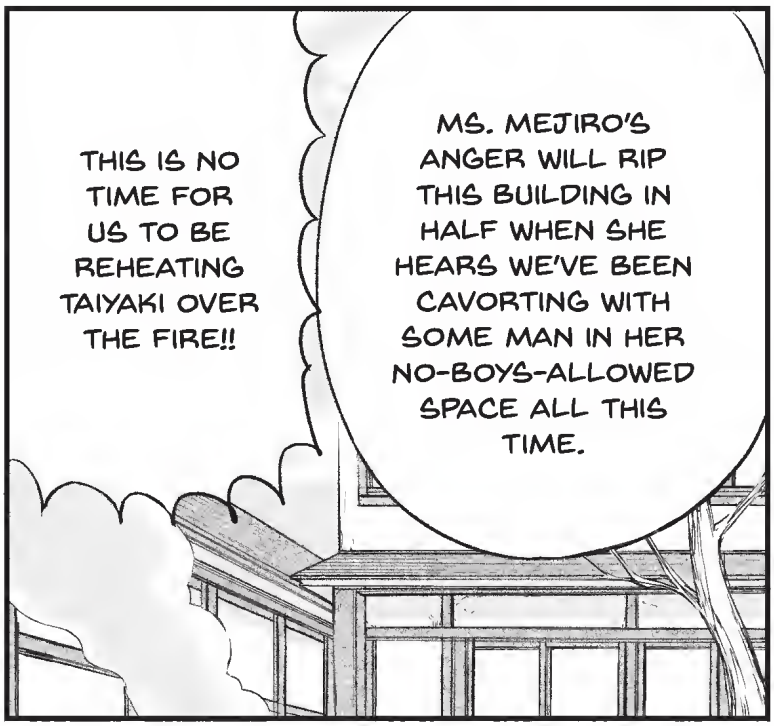

SHU IS SO KIND...
HELPING EVEN AFTER I... SAID THOSE THINGS...
HEY, TSUKIMI.
GOT A WEIRD QUESTION FOR YA.

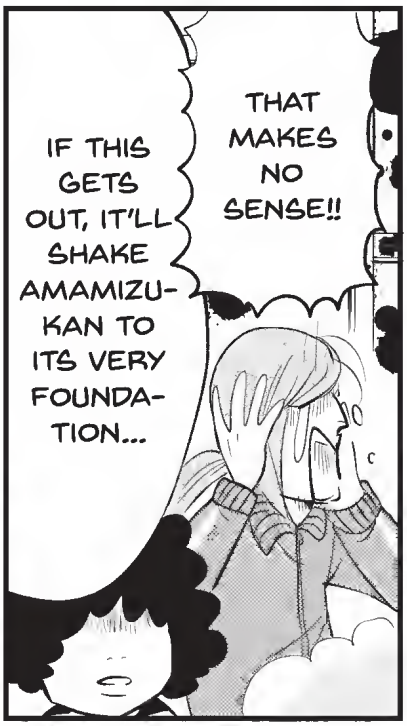

NEVER MIND, SORRY.
PLANKTON-ICALLY?
PLATONI-CALLY, OF COURSE.
SETTING ASIDE THE WHOLE MARRIAGE THING, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IDEA OF US LIVING TOGETHER? YOU, ME, AND SHU.
...
LIVING... TOGETH-ER...
SURE.
THAT MIGHT WORK, TOO.
YOU MEAN "FLAT-MATES" LIKE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT...?
TH-THE THREE OF US LIVING TOGETH-ER...
FORGET IT! JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID!
DON'T TURN TO STONE *HERE!*
S-STONE?
ピキ
krikt
ACK!
...
ピキ
krikt


WHAT NOW?
WHAT SHOULD WE TELL THE OTHERS?
crackle crackle


WE THOUGHT SHE WAS A BALLSY CHICK, BUT REALLY THE BALLSY CHICK ACT WAS A COVER FOR ACTUAL BALLS.
TO SUM THINGS UP...
SO...
crackle crackle

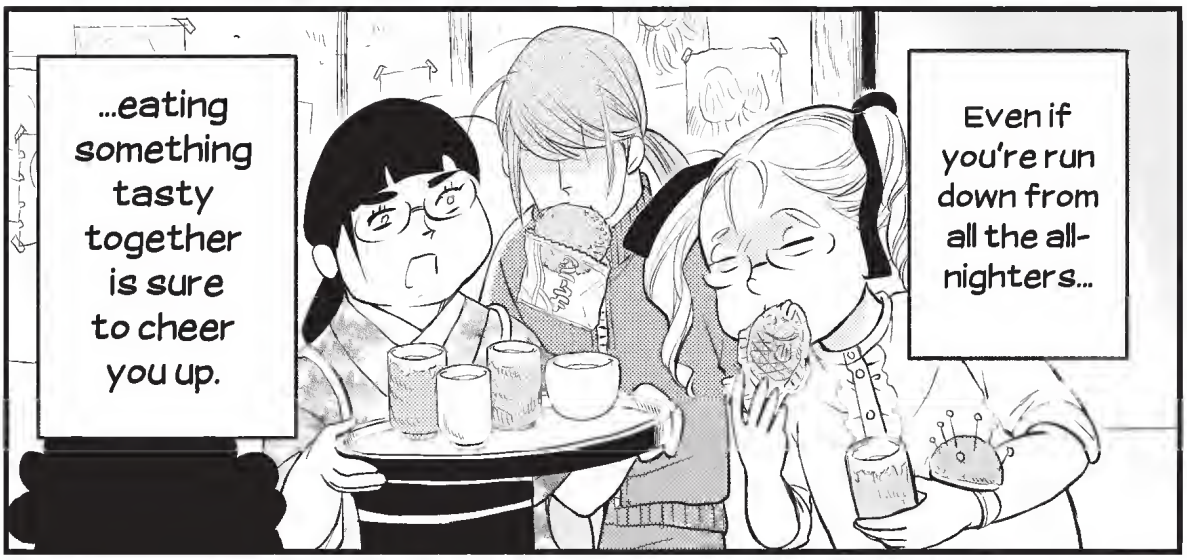

I KNOW, WE'VE BEEN DUPED ALL THIS TIME.
I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED SHE WAS A MAN...

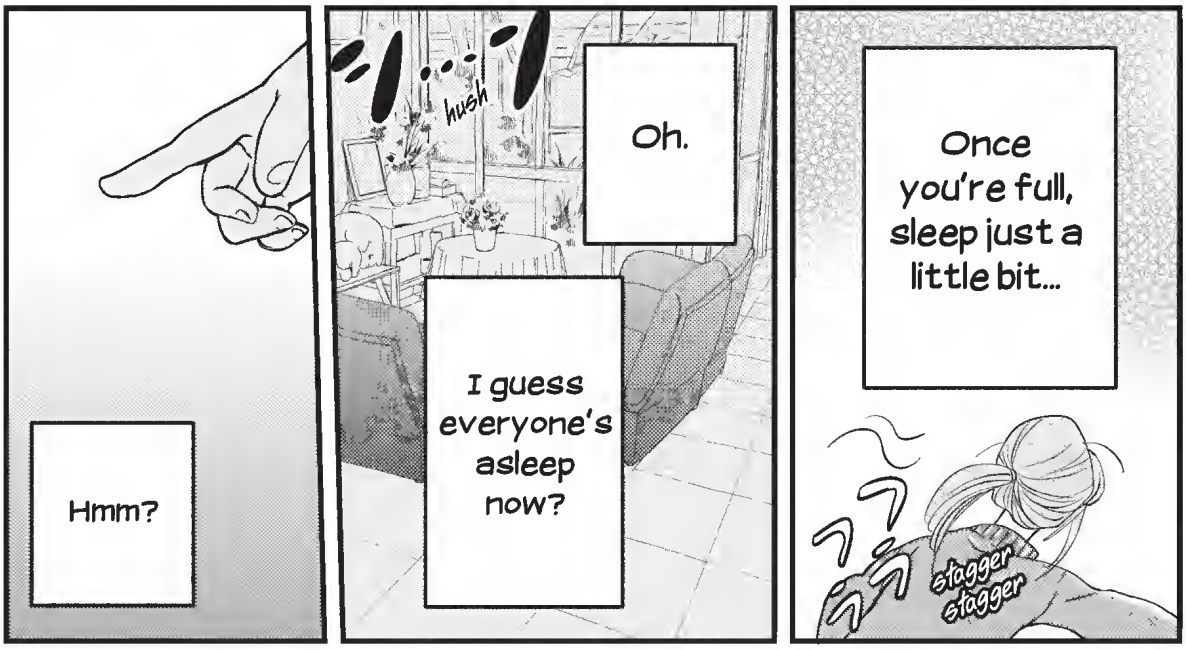

THIS IS NO TIME FOR US TO BE REHEATING TAIYAKI OVER THE FIRE!!
MS. MEJIRO'S ANGER WILL RIP THIS BUILDING IN HALF WHEN SHE HEARS WE'VE BEEN CAVORTING WITH SOME MAN IN HER NO-BOYS-ALLOWED SPACE ALL THIS TIME.

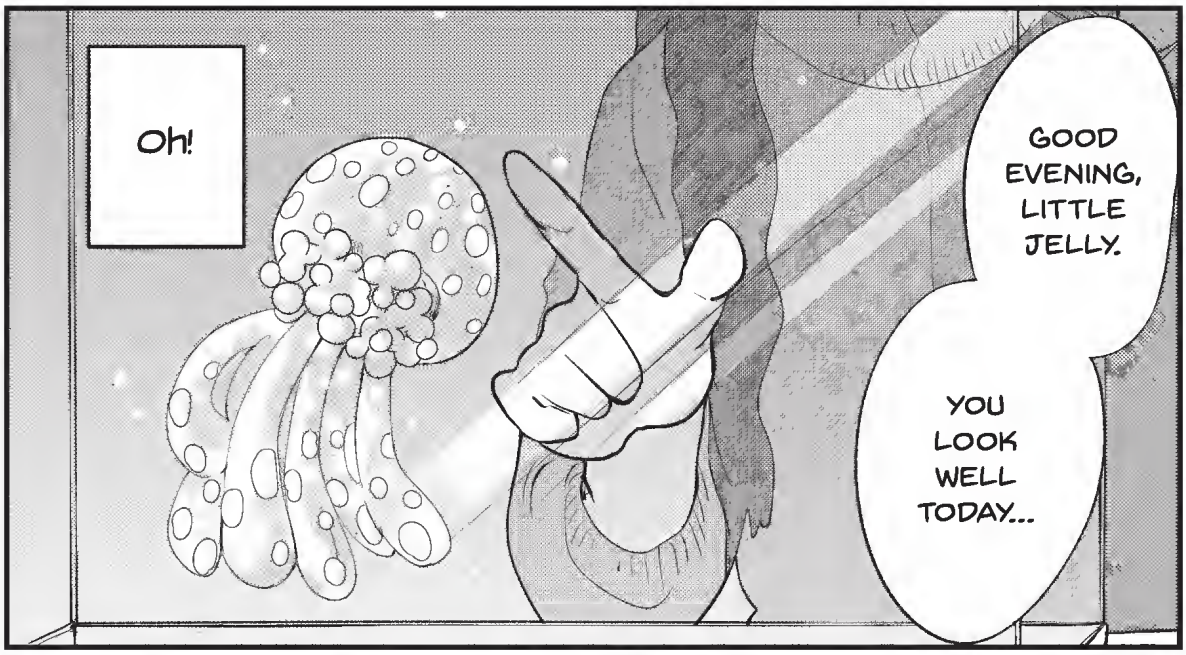

IF THIS GETS OUT, IT'LL SHAKE AMAMIZU-KAN TO ITS VERY FOUNDA-TION...
THAT MAKES NO SENSE!!

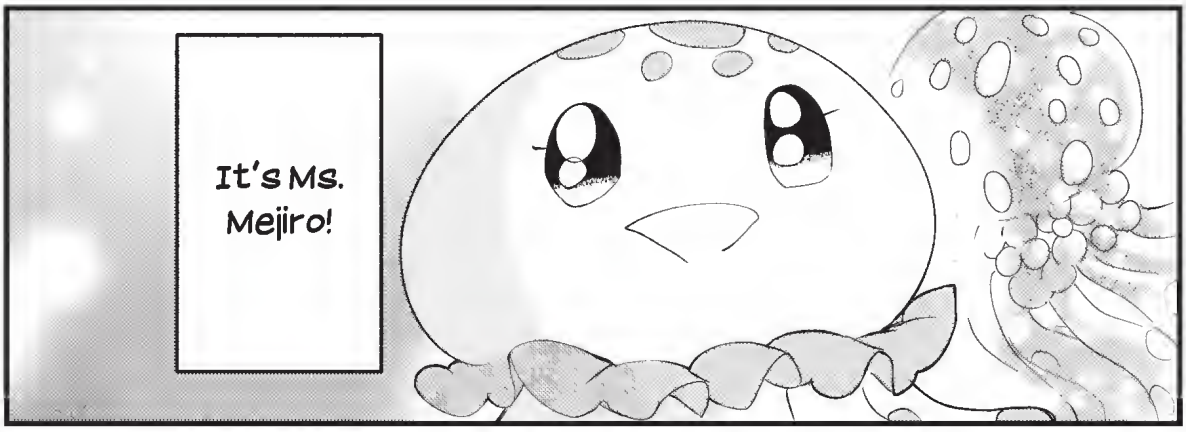
LIKE ON THE RED TIDE LEVEL.
NAH, PROBABLY EVEN WORSE THAN PLANKTON.
TO ONE WHO TREATS NORMAL HUMANS AS MAGGOTS, A MALE HUMAN WOULD BE A PARAMECIUM OR EUGLENID...
INDEED.
IT'S JUST A HUNCH, BUT THINK IT'D BE BAD IF SHE FOUND OUT.
AND NOMU WORRIES ME!
A RED TIDE IS NOT GOOD!
fshh
AND KURAKO MUST HAVE HER REASONS FOR LYING...
...
YEAH...
I SECOND THE MOTION! OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO HIDE THE TRUTH AT ALL COSTS!
WHAT DO WE DO? MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP IT QUIET.
It's almost time, everyone.
WE GOTTA KEEP THIS SECRET AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE SHOW, MAYAYA.
YES, SIR.

Just one last push before the show.
Hang in there!


...eating something tasty together is sure to cheer you up.
Even if you're run down from all the all-nighters...


Hmm?
hush
Oh.
I guess everyone's asleep now?
Once you're full, sleep just a little bit...
stagger stagger


Oh!
GOOD EVENING, LITTLE JELLY.
YOU LOOK WELL TODAY...

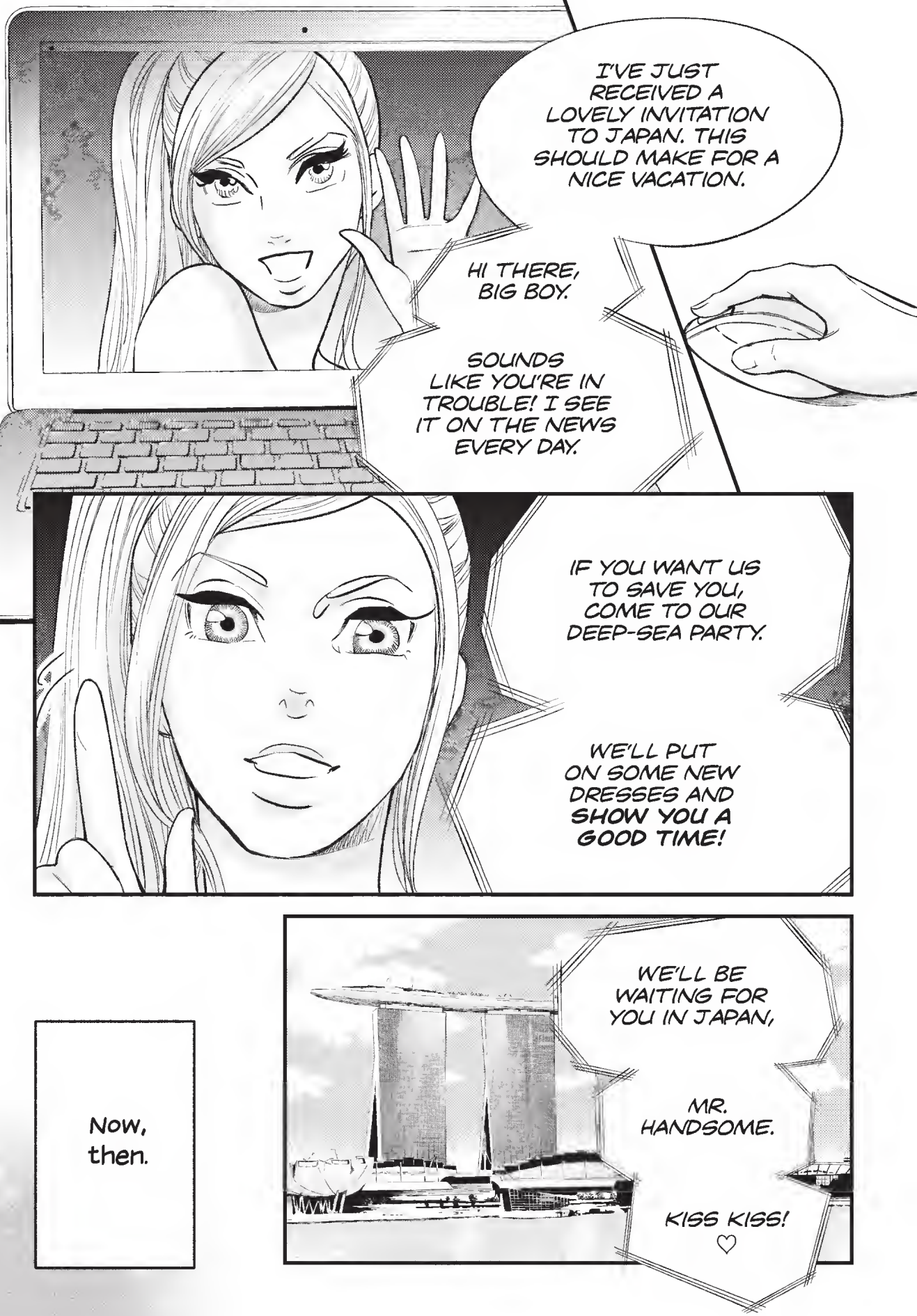

It's Ms. Mejiro!

Please take me with you!
I do! I do!
IT'S IN ENOSHIMA, I HEAR.

I HEAR THEY'RE DOING A FASHION SHOW AGAIN...
Long time no see! Has it been two weeks?
YOU WANT TO WATCH IT TOO, RIGHT?

THESE GIRLS ARE REALLY AMAZING.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SHOW.
Yay! ☆
I'LL PUT YOU IN A LITTLE FISHBOWL AND TAKE YOU WITH ME.
ALL RIGHT.
尼
(Nun)
THEIR "GEEK GIRL POWER" SEEMS LIABLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.
...THE BOARD VOTED TO DISMISS YOU AS CEO TODAY.
MR. KAI FISH...

DEAR ME.
IT'S ALL OVER SO QUICKLY.
I SEE.
THEN YOU NEED SOMEONE TO GO TO JAPAN IMMEDIATELY AND FILE IT, EH?
EXCELLENT TIMING.
I ALSO HAVE A FEW RELATED MATTERS TO REPORT...
WE WILL BE FILING THE PAPERWORK TO SELL OFF THAT TOKYO APARTMENT BUILDING CALLED "AMAMIZU-KAN."
LOOK WHAT HAPPENS THE MOMENT MY LADY LUCK ESCAPES ME.

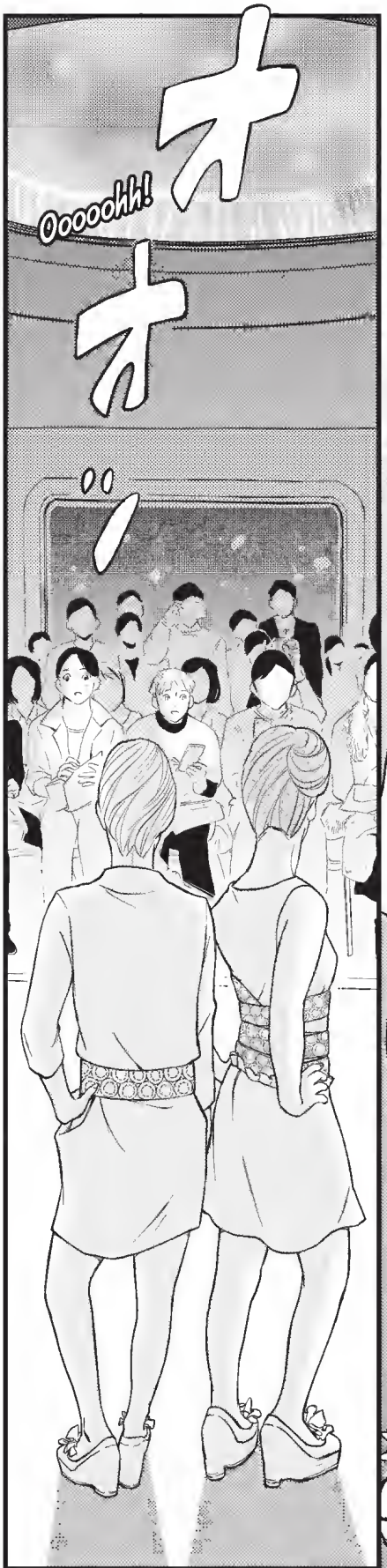

I'VE JUST RECEIVED A LOVELY INVITATION TO JAPAN. THIS SHOULD MAKE FOR A NICE VACATION.
HI THERE, BIG BOY.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE! I SEE IT ON THE NEWS EVERY DAY.
IF YOU WANT US TO SAVE YOU, COME TO OUR DEEP-SEA PARTY.
WE'LL PUT ON SOME NEW DRESSES AND SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME!
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN JAPAN,
MR. HANDSOME.
KISS KISS! ♡
Now, then.

1.569
5.600
Retweeted
Fashion Prest @fashionprestnet 6h
"Jellyfish Dress Fashion Show"
to be held at New Enoshima Aquarium!
#jellyfish #NewEnoshimaAquarium
#jellydress fashionprestnet/news/751015
Let's start something.
Let's invite everyone to a show...
...that only we can stage.
EXCUSE ME?
A FASHION SHOW AT AN AQUARIUM?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW, YOU BRAT?!
I'M IN EBETSU! *EBETSU!*
YES, THE ONE IN HOKKAI-DO!!
THAT'S RIGHT! I GOT DUMPED OUT HERE FOR FAILING TO BUY AMAMIZU-KAN!
MY COMPANY'S DECIDED TO BUILD A MALL HERE FOR SOME REASON.
THIS IS YOUR CREW'S FAULT!
YAY! I'LL BE EXPECTING TASTY HOKKAIDO SOUVENIRS!
SWEET CORN! POTA-TOES!!

For today...
Terminal 2
rooarr
Gather round, everyone.
...there are no "enemies" or "allies."
Just witness it.

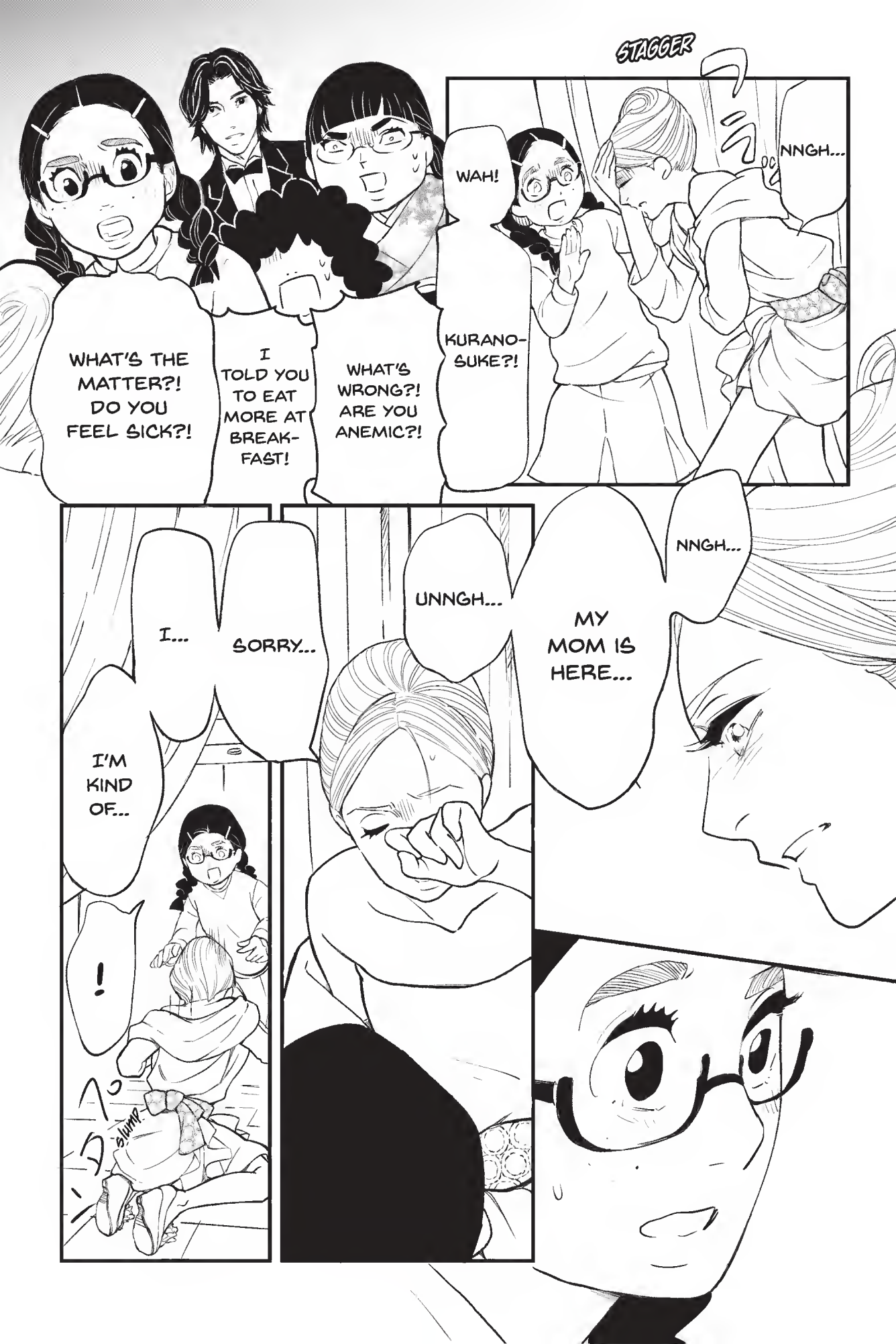
Witness the moment we change the world.

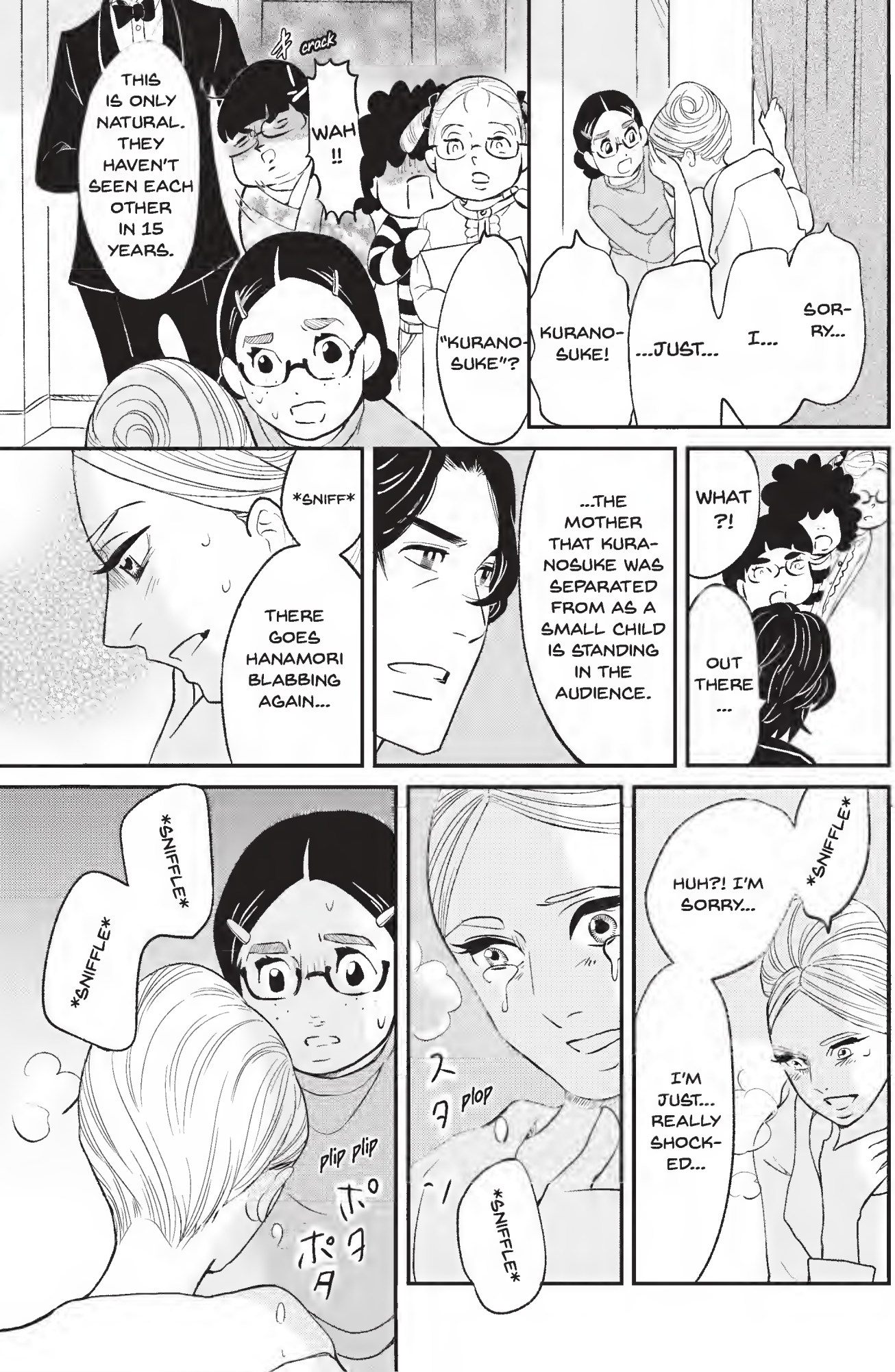

Oooooohh!

Now spread the word for us.
I want Sisterhood types around the world...
...to wear these clothes.

I know...
I know you're watching.

DASH!

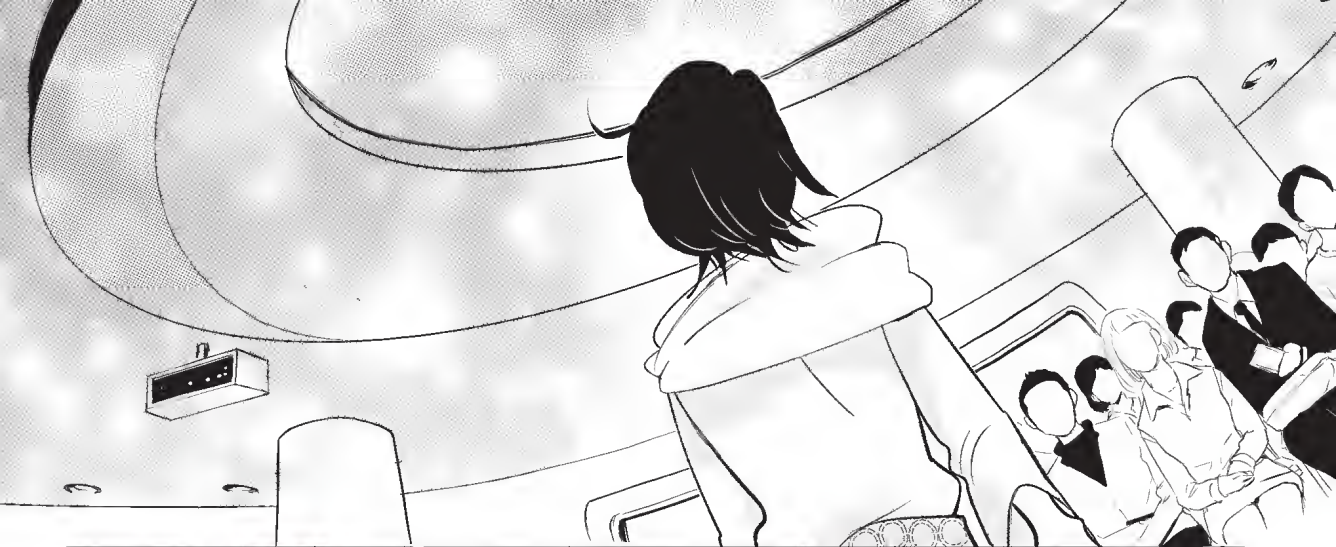

STAGGER
NNGH...
WAH!
KURANO-SUKE?!
WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU ANEMIC?!
I TOLD YOU TO EAT MORE AT BREAK-FAST!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?! DO YOU FEEL SICK?!
NNGH...
MY MOM IS HERE...
UNNGH...
I...
SORRY...
I'M KIND OF...
!
slump

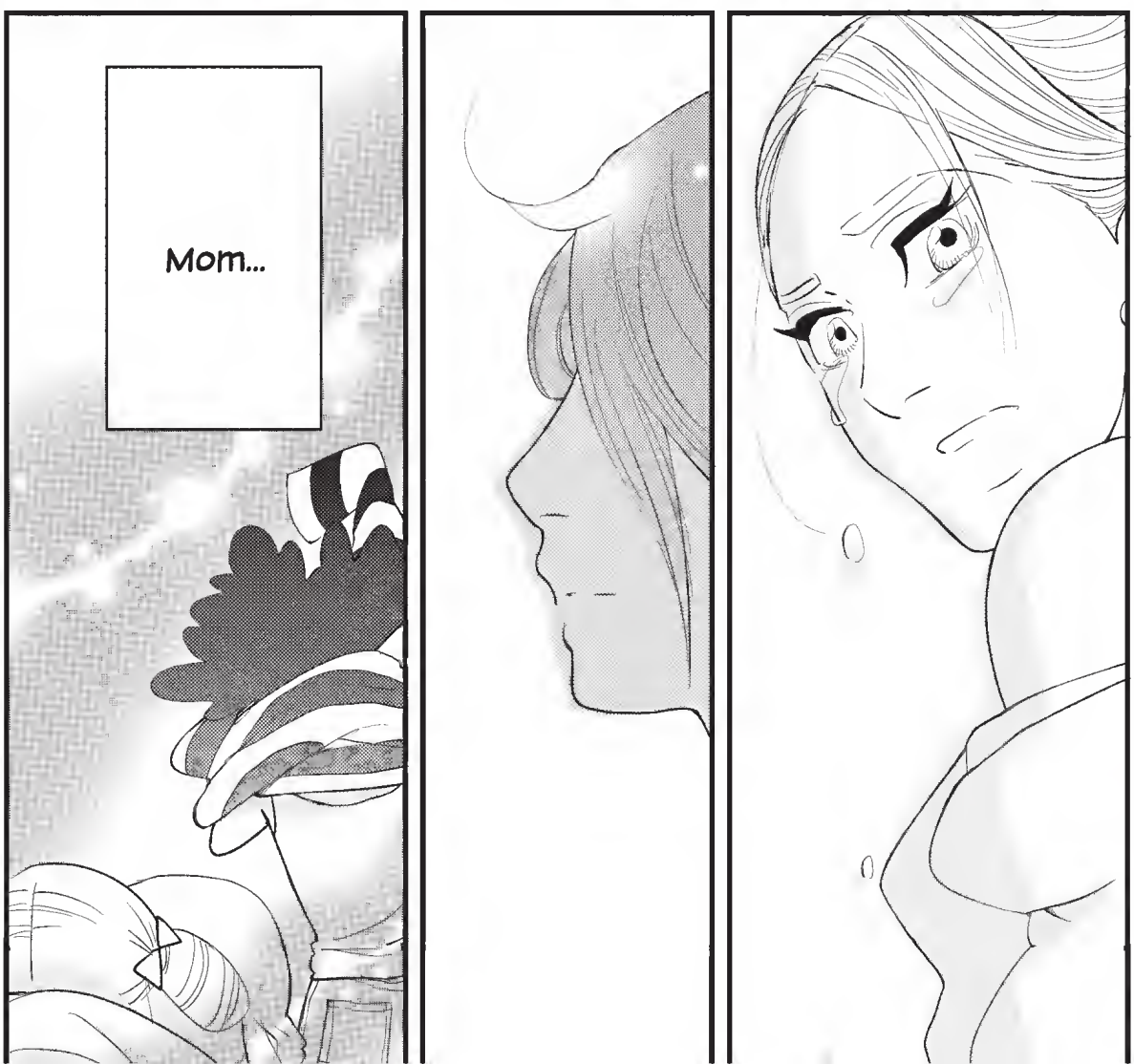

THIS IS ONLY NATURAL. THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN 15 YEARS.
crack
WAH !!
"KURANOSUKE"?
KURANOSUKE!
...JUST...
I...
SORRY...
SNIFF
THERE GOES HANAMORI BLABBING AGAIN...
...THE MOTHER THAT KURANOSUKE WAS SEPARATED FROM AS A SMALL CHILD IS STANDING IN THE AUDIENCE.
WHAT ?!
OUT THERE ...
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE
plip plip
ポタポタ
plop
SNIFFLE
HUH?! I'M SORRY...
SNIFFLE
I'M JUST... REALLY SHOCKED...

HUH?
PLEASE PUT DRESSES ON, EVERYONE.
ZHOOP
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! PUT ON YOUR NEXT OUTFIT, MORON!
WHOA, TSUKIMI, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HURRY!!
PLEASE PUT THEM ON.

KURANO-SUKE HAS HELPED US SO MUCH!
IT'S OUR TURN TO HELP NOW.
WAIT— YOU WANT US TO BE MODELS?!
IM-POSSI-BLE!
A CHUBBY GIRL LIKE ME?!
AN AFRO-ED SHORTY LIKE ME?!
A MAGGOT LIKE ME?!
I'LL DO IT.
SO WILL I.
JIJI...!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. ISN'T THIS WHAT THE JERSEY DRESSES ARE FOR?
I'LL GO FIRST.
THE REST OF YOU GET CHANGED IN THE MEANTIME.
Ignoring Mr. Hanamori for the moment...
FLOOP

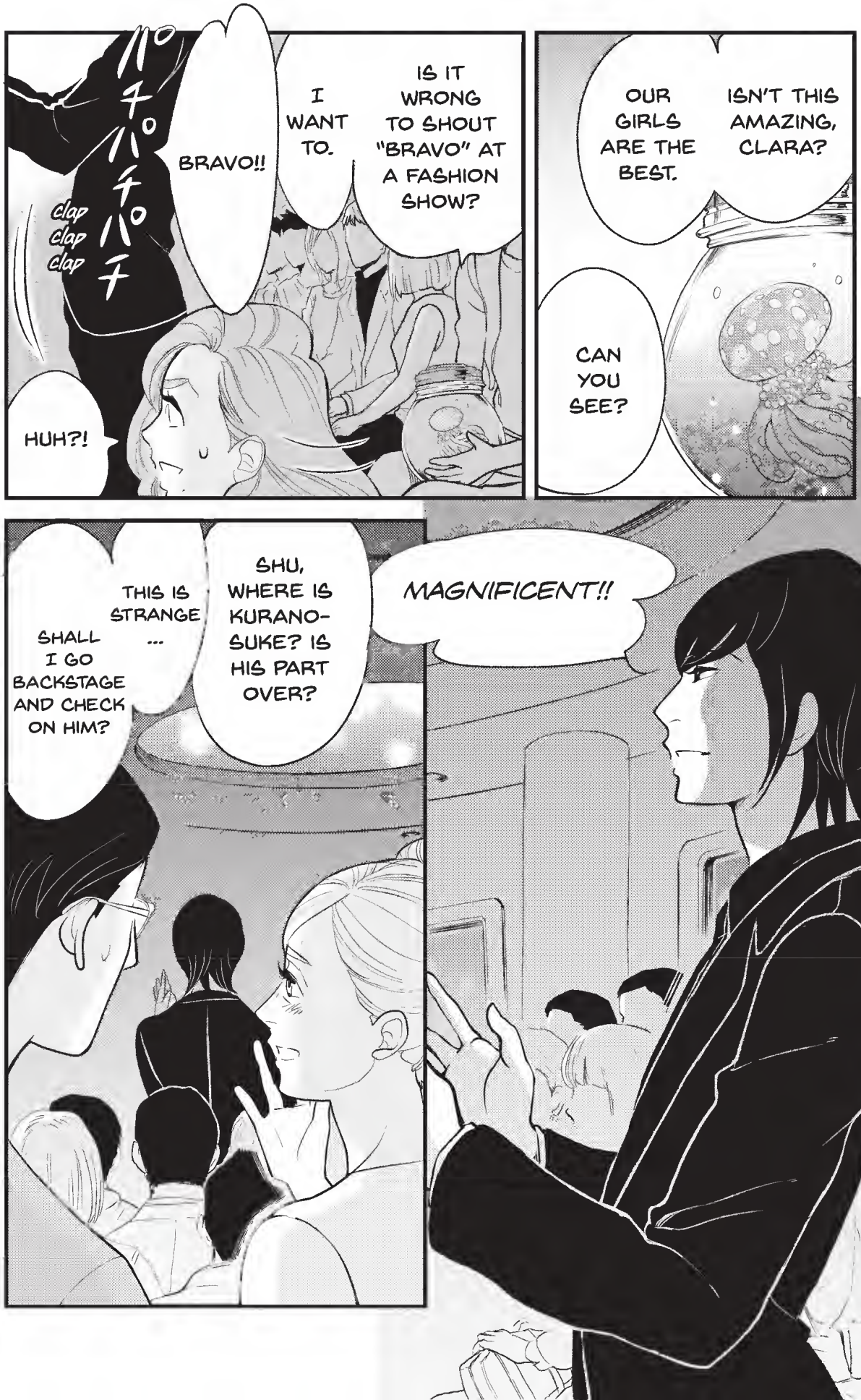
BUT WHAT ABOUT HAIR AND MAKEUP...?
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY FINE. MS. MATSU DID SAY "LET IT GO," AFTER ALL.
OKAY, HERE I GO.
OH, WAIT.
YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF YOUR GLASSES.
toss
shift
HUH?

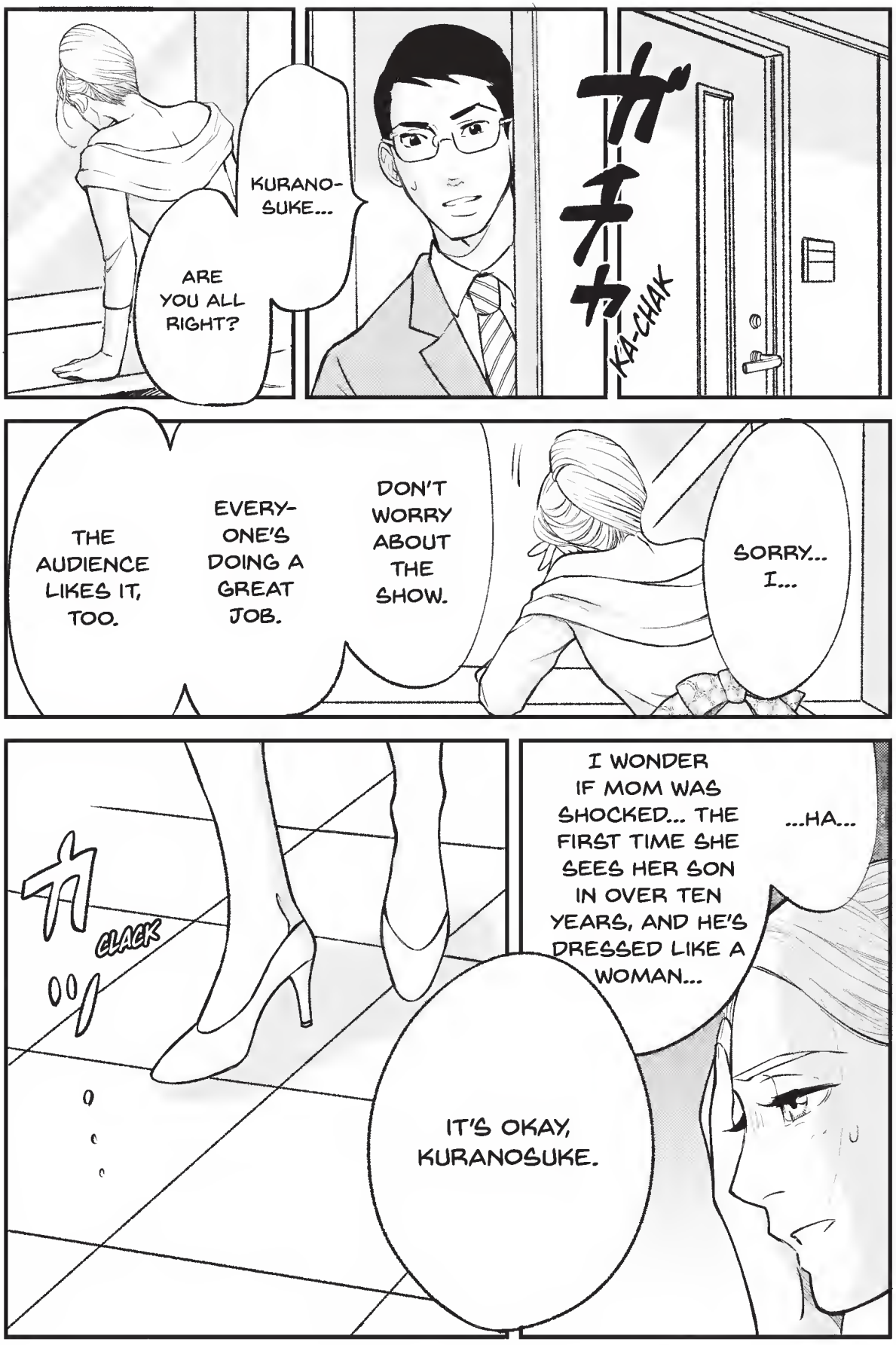



Mom...

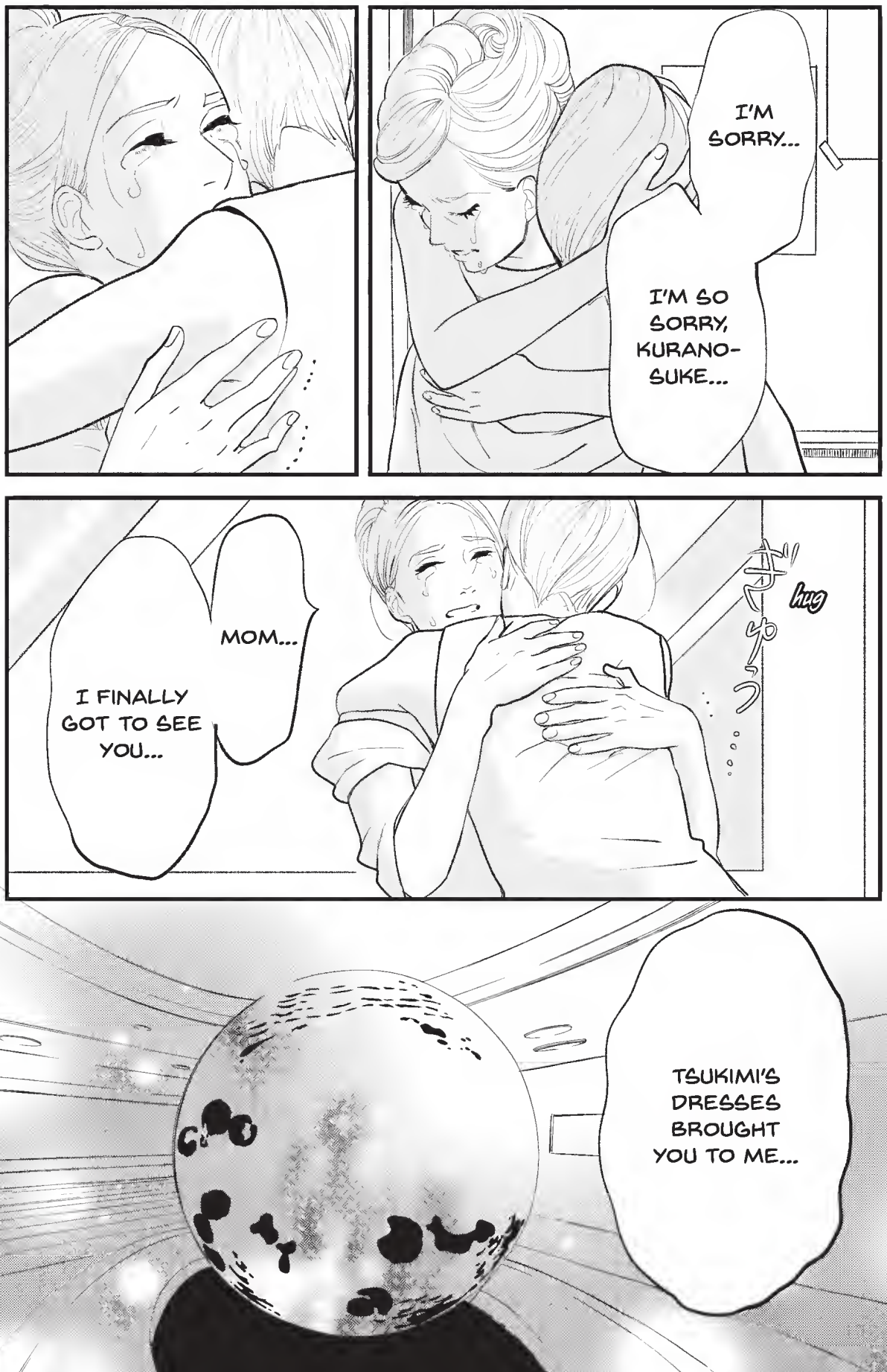
...you were right.
Like you said.
All girls really can become princesses.
Our armor is soft and translucent.

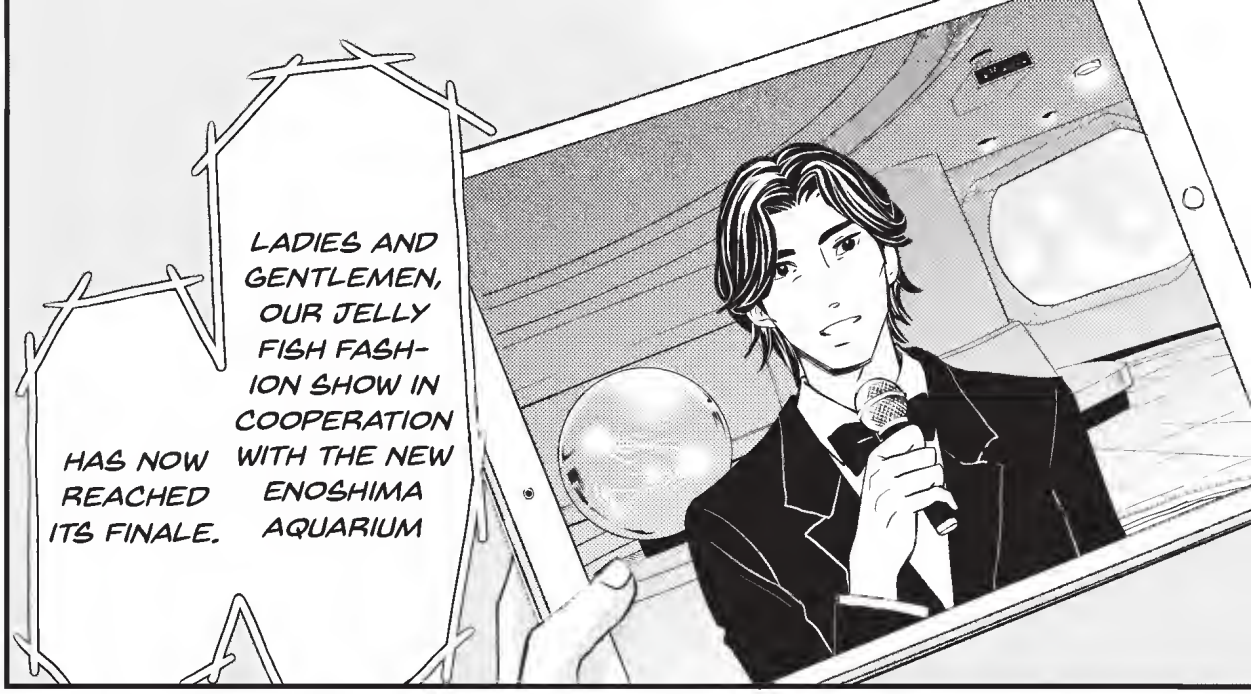
WHAT?!
WHO IS THAT?!
WOW...
SPARKLE
THE AFRO GIRL?!
No way! She's freakin' cute!
...
AH HA HA!

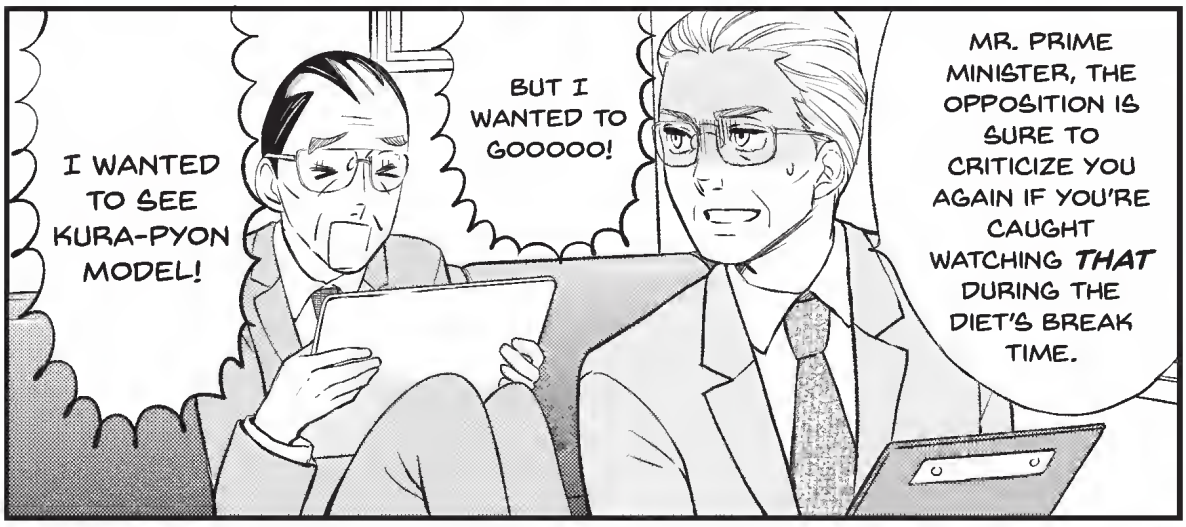

パチパチパチ
clap clap clap
BRAVO!!
I WANT TO.
IS IT WRONG TO SHOUT "BRAVO" AT A FASHION SHOW?
HUH?!
ISN'T THIS AMAZING, CLARA?
OUR GIRLS ARE THE BEST.
CAN YOU SEE?
MAGNIFICENT!!
SHU, WHERE IS KURANO-SUKE? IS HIS PART OVER?
THIS IS STRANGE ...
SHALL I GO BACKSTAGE AND CHECK ON HIM?


KURANO-SUKE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ガチャ
KA-CHAK
SORRY... I...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE SHOW.
EVERY-ONE'S DOING A GREAT JOB.
THE AUDIENCE LIKES IT, TOO.
I WONDER IF MOM WAS SHOCKED... THE FIRST TIME SHE SEES HER SON IN OVER TEN YEARS, AND HE'S DRESSED LIKE A WOMAN...
...HA...
IT'S OKAY, KURANOSUKE.
CLACK

I'M ALREADY A BIG FAN—OF YOU AND OF JELLY FISH'S DRESSES.
...
MOM...!
ぎゅっ...
hug


I'M SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY, KURANO-SUKE...
MOM...
I FINALLY GOT TO SEE YOU...
ぎゅっ
hug
TSUKIMI'S DRESSES BROUGHT YOU TO ME...


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR JELLY FISH FASH-ION SHOW IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEW ENOSHIMA AQUARIUM
HAS NOW REACHED ITS FINALE.


I WANTED TO SEE KURA-PYON MODEL!
BUT I WANTED TO GOOOOO!
MR. PRIME MINISTER, THE OPPOSITION IS SURE TO CRITICIZE YOU AGAIN IF YOU'RE CAUGHT WATCHING *THAT* DURING THE DIET'S BREAK TIME.

LINA CAME ALL THE WAY FROM ITALY, RIGHT?
YOU WATCH, TOO.
COME ON.

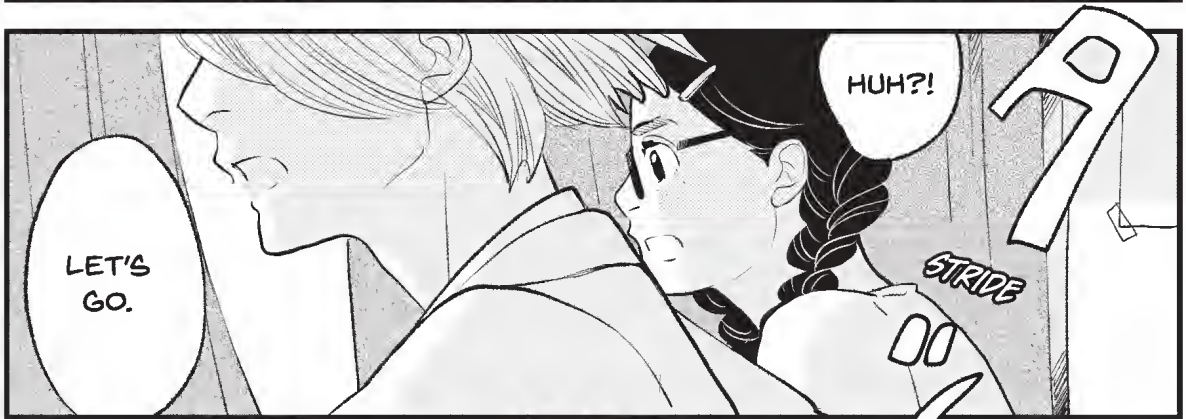
THAT'S NOT AN APPROPRIATE USE OF YOUR SECURITY.
AT LEAST MY SECURITY STAFF IS LIVE-BROAD-CASTING IT TO ME.

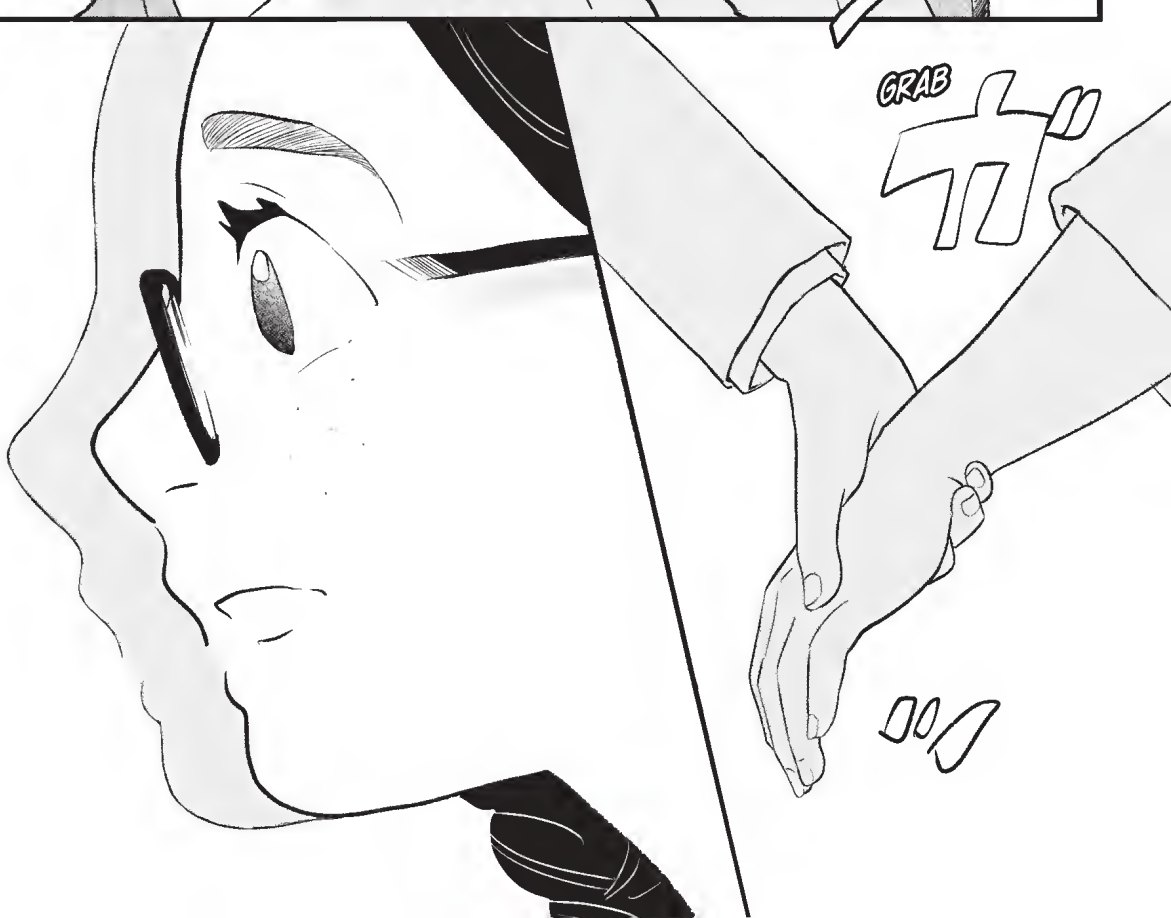
YOU NEED TO SHOW THAT BOY SOME SUPPORT, TOO,
AFTER YOU'VE HURT HIM SO MUCH.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO ACCEPT WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.
...
BROTH—
THIS ISN'T BROTHERLY ADVICE.
THIS IS AN ORDER FROM THE PRIME MINISTER.
I love you.

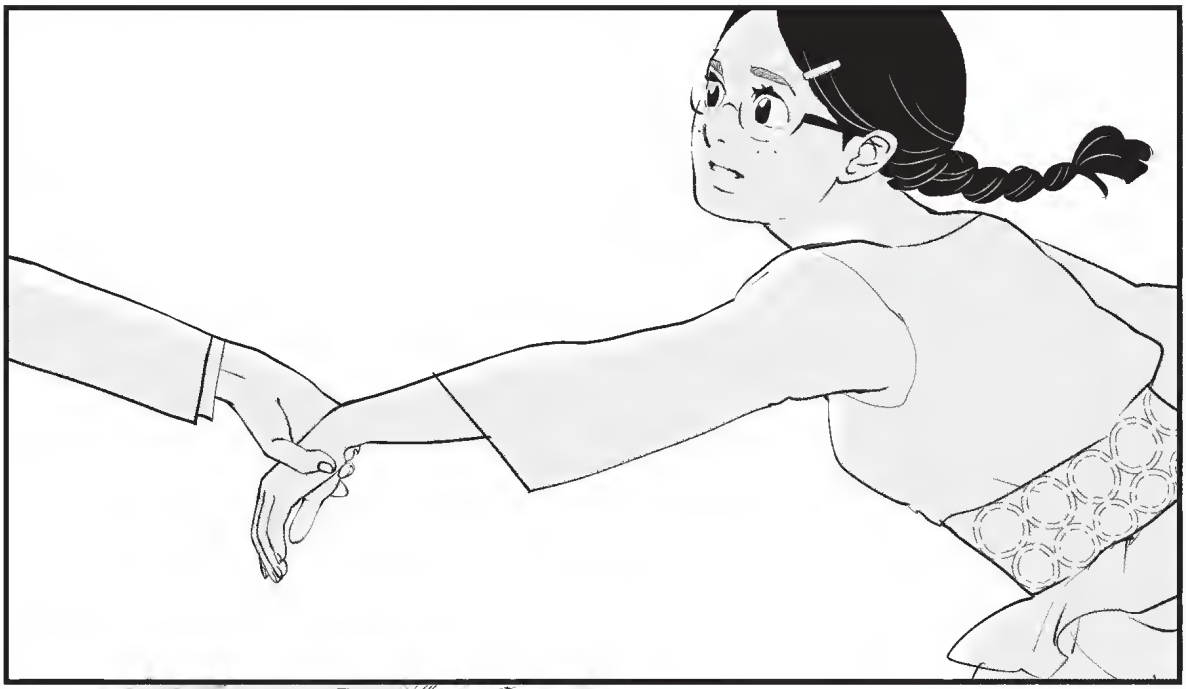
I love you all.
Thanks to all of you...
...I got to see my mom again.

Hey, Mom.
I'm going to intro-duce you...
...to the person I care about most.
She's my partner...
...my best friend...
...and my cherished...
TSUKIMI!
ARE YOU DRESSED?
IT'S TIME FOR THE FINALE!

HERE I GO!
RIGHT!

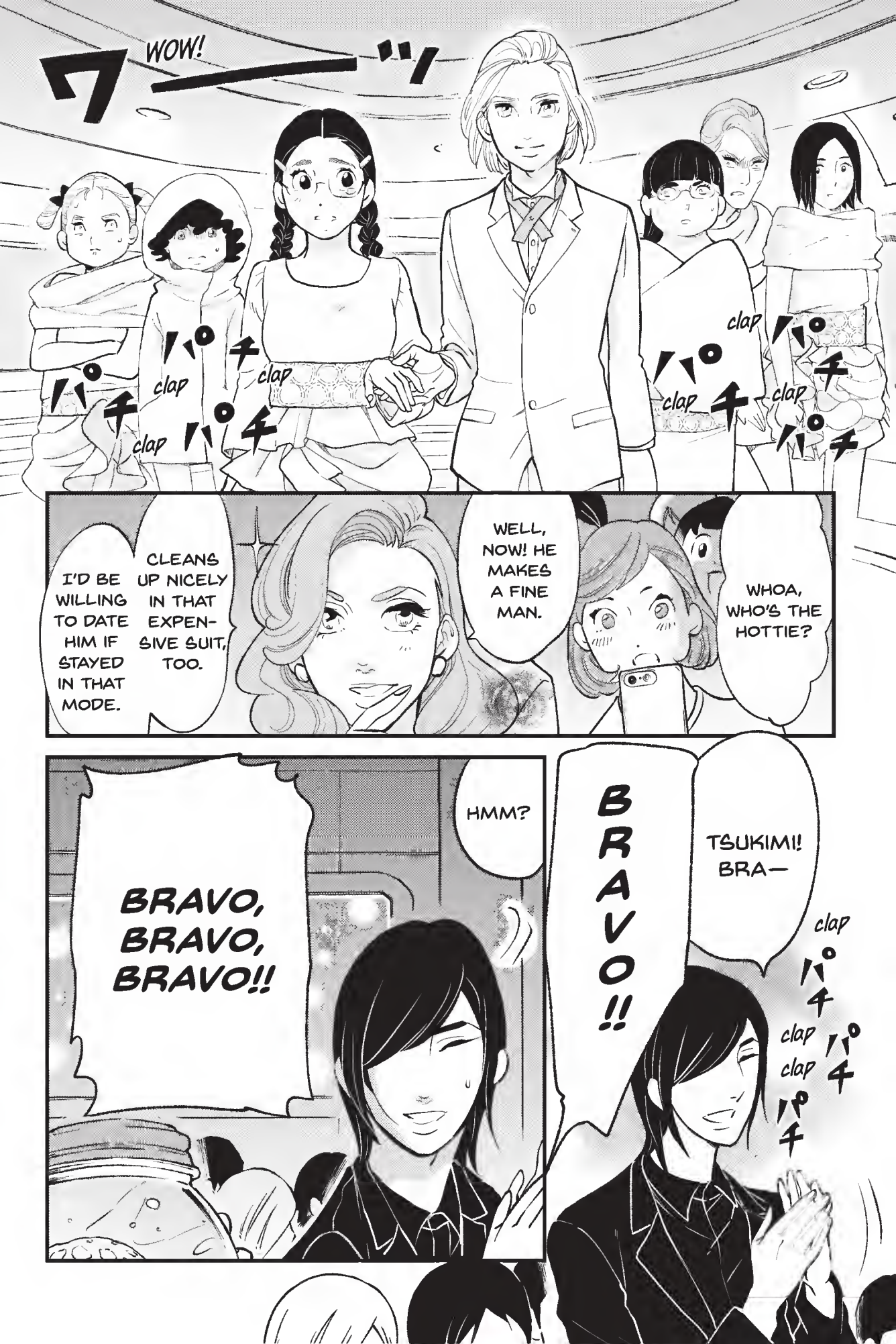

LET'S GO.
HUH?!
STRIDE

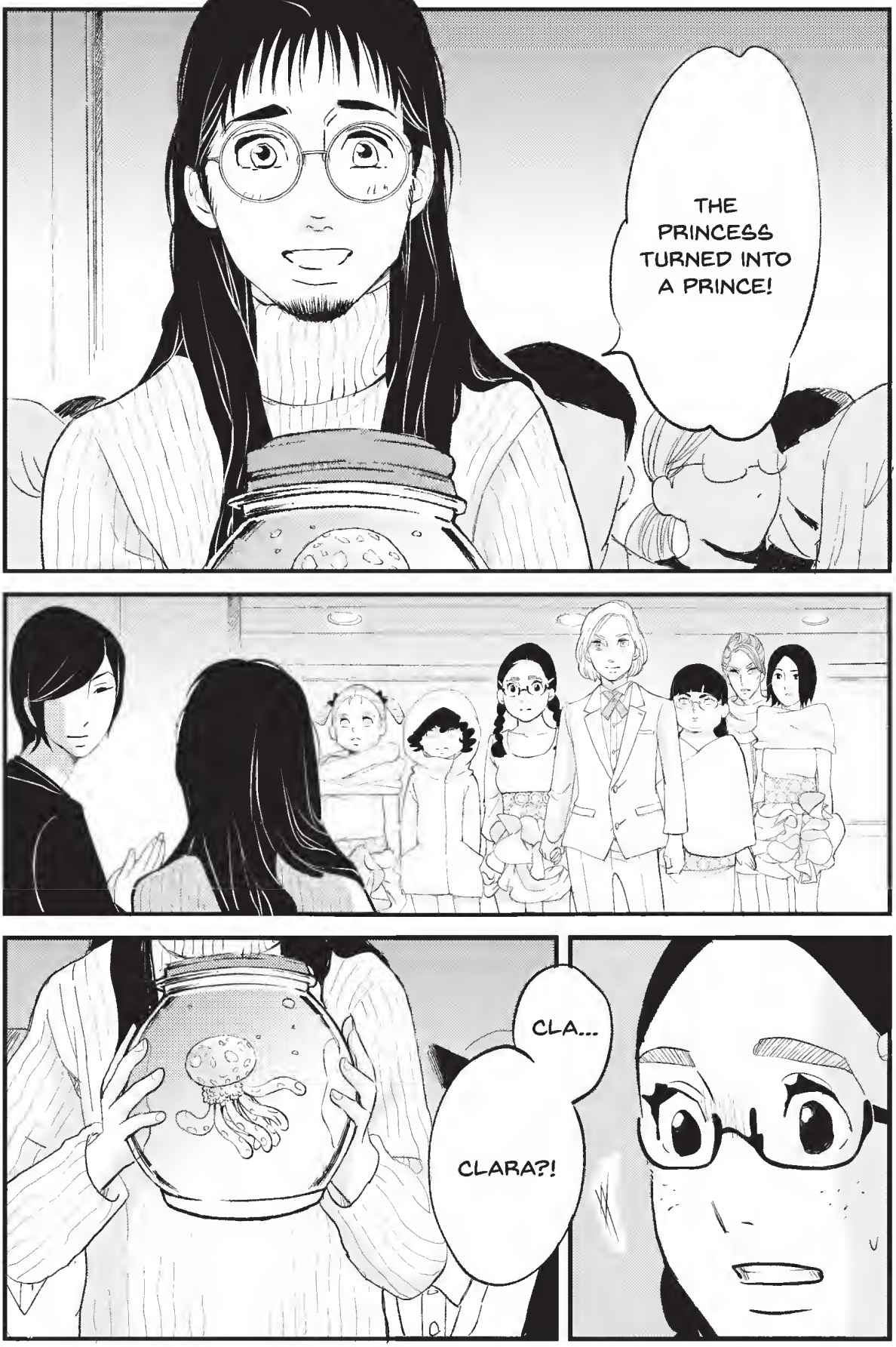

GRAB



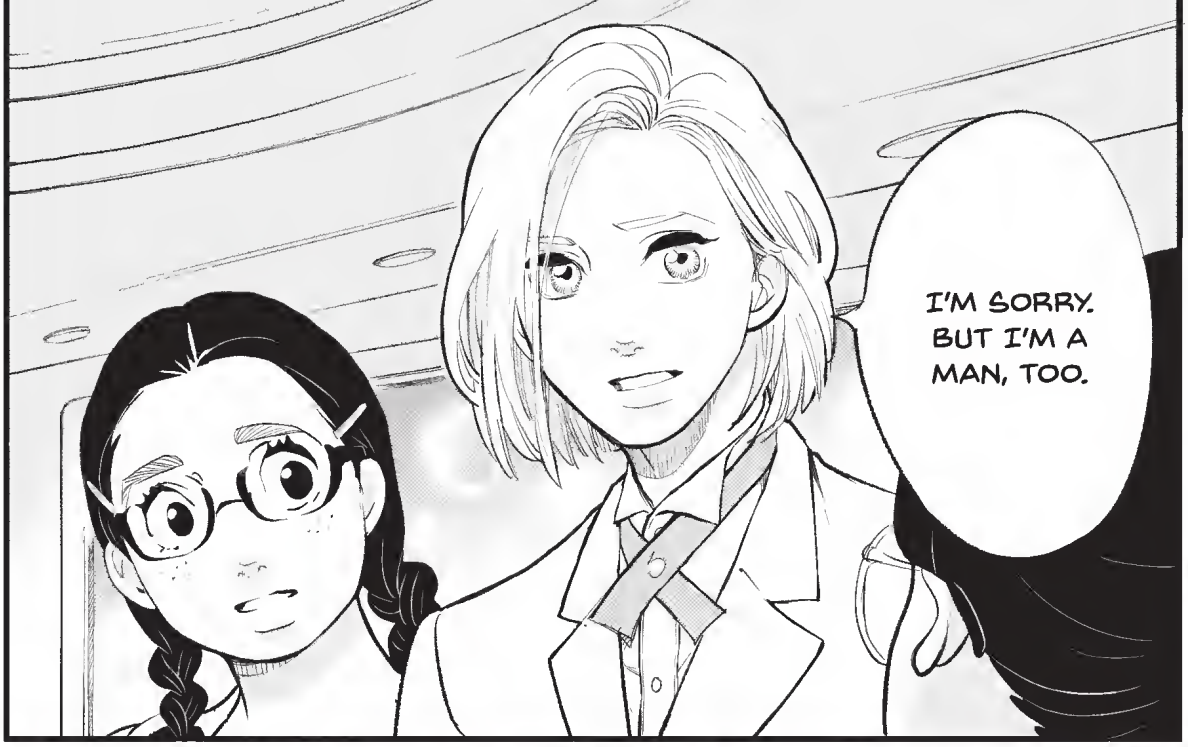
I LOVE YOU.

...princess.


WOW!
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
clap
WHOA, WHO'S THE HOTTIE?
WELL, NOW! HE MAKES A FINE MAN.
CLEANS UP NICELY IN THAT EXPEN-SIVE SUIT, TOO.
I'D BE WILLING TO DATE HIM IF STAYED IN THAT MODE.
TSUKIMI! BRA—
BRAVO!!
clap
clap
clap
HMM?
BRAVO, BRAVO, BRAVO!!

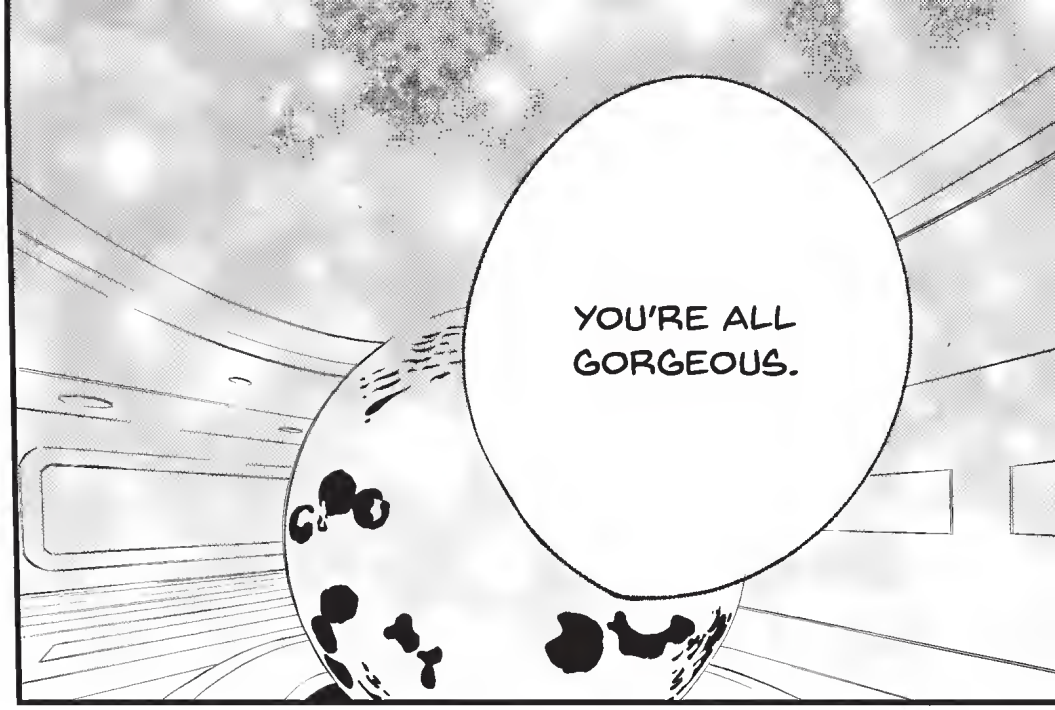

THE PRINCESS TURNED INTO A PRINCE!
CLA...
CLARA?!

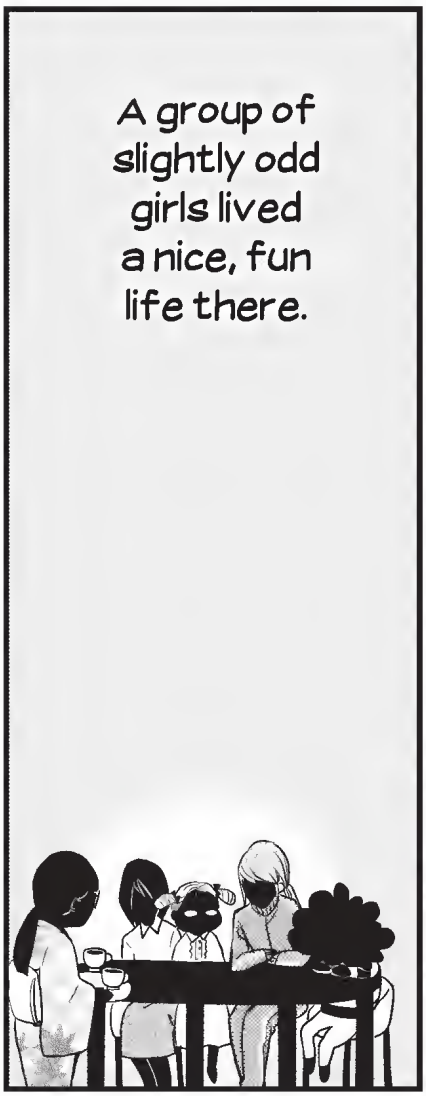
NO, NO, BUT...
NO, IT'S GOTTA BE.
NO, IT CAN'T BE.
...MS. MEJIRO?
ARE YOU...
CAN WOMEN GROW BEARDS?
HEY, WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE.
BUT THAT'S A MAN.
K-KURAKO... HELP...
M-M-MS. MEJIRO IS A MAN...?
A... MAN?
stagger
I CAN'T... WRAP MY BRAIN AROUND...
IDENTITY CONFIRMED.
...
shff
Sorry for shocking you.


I'M SORRY. BUT I'M A MAN, TOO.

I'M SORRY FOR LYING TO YOU ALL.

I'M A MAN, BUT LET ME STAY FRIENDS WITH YOU.


YOU'RE ALL GORGEOUS.

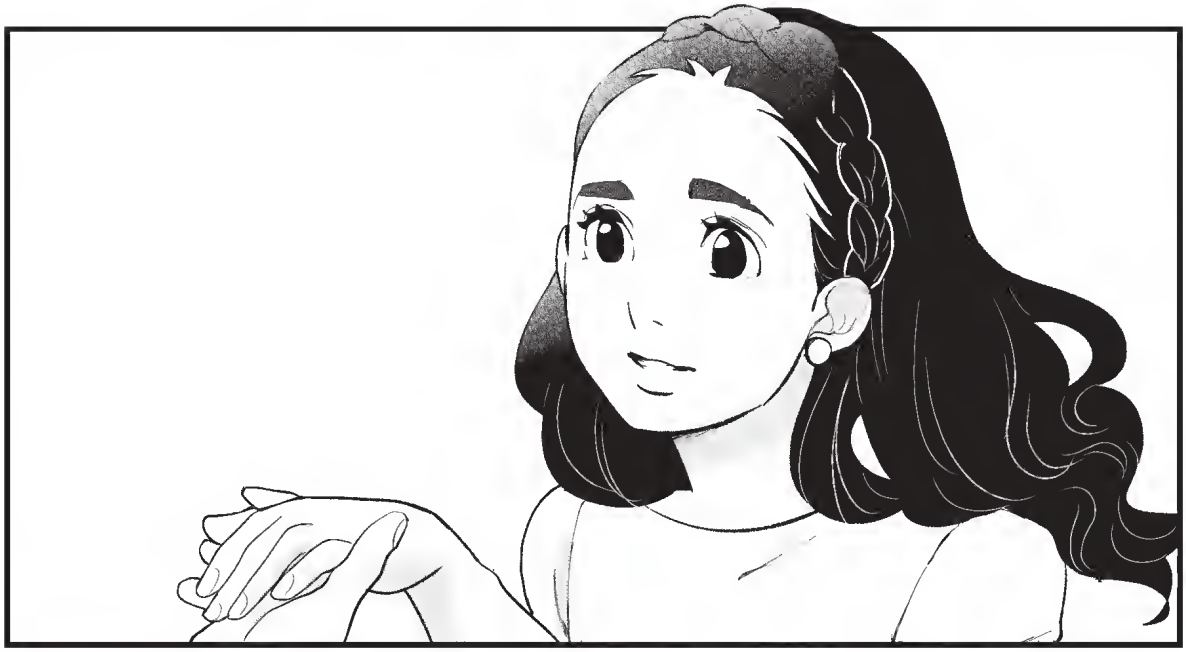

A group of slightly odd girls lived a nice, fun life there.

...there was a tiny little castle.

Once upon a time...

She tried her best to lure the girls into the outside world.
Then one day a beautiful princess came to the castle.
The girls resisted at first...
...but little by little...
"You must become strong and beautiful to protect the castle," she said.
They metamor-phosed.
Beautifully...
Strongly...

...their beautiful princess visitor transformed into a prince.
And when they became great princesses...

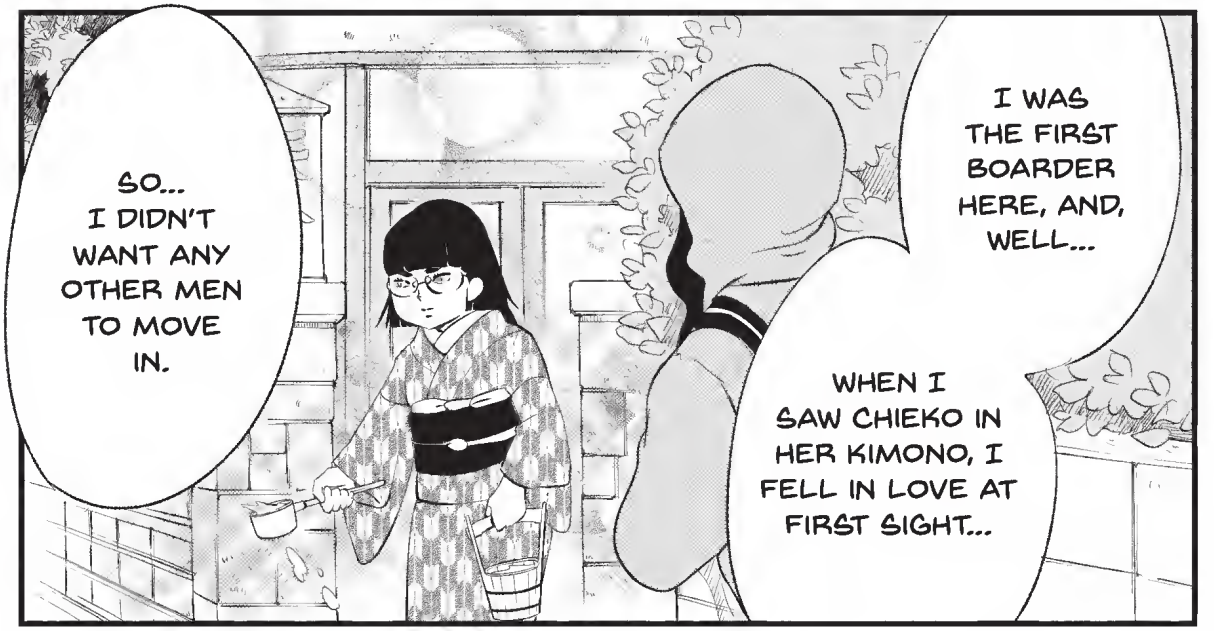


AMAMIZU-KAN FASHION SHOW AFTERPARTY
People can change.

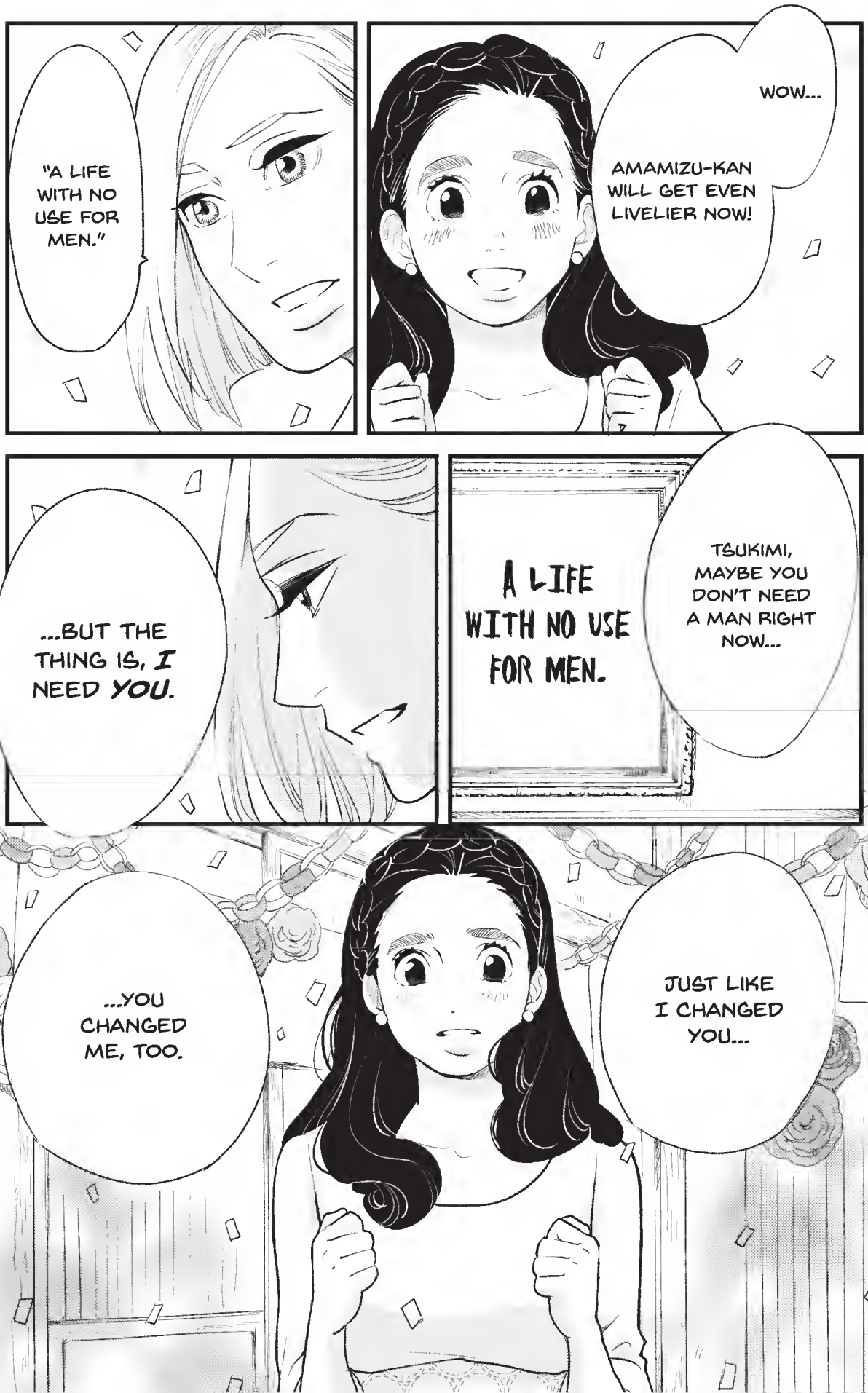
NO, I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET.
LIFE IS LONG.
I'LL WAIT FOR HER.
SERI-OUSLY?
Ugh, that's just sad.
shing
HUH?
ARE YOU RECORDING THIS?
REC
PLEASE, STOP. SHU IS STILL RECOVERING FROM A BROKEN HEART.

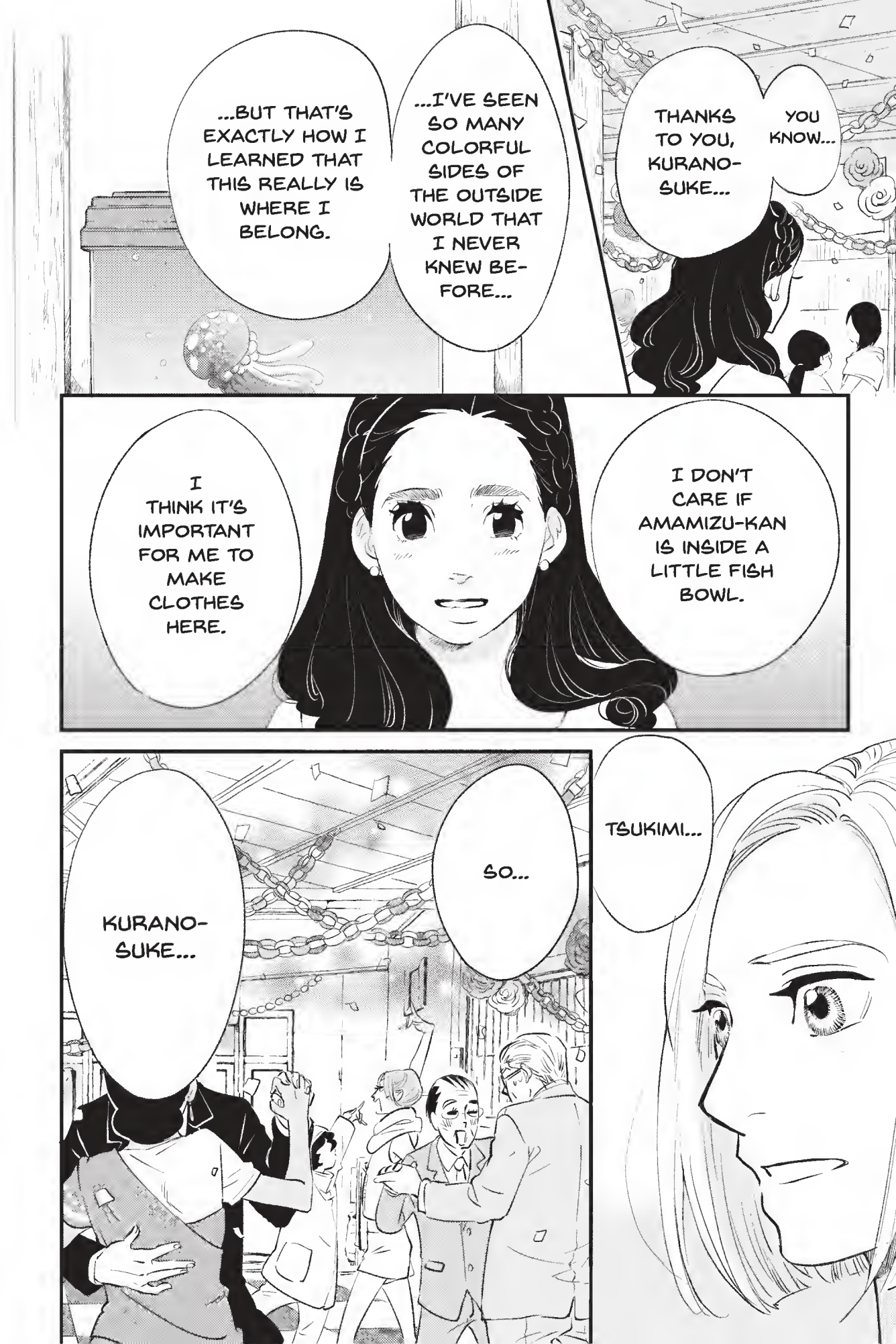
YEAH, RIGHT! YOU JUST WANT TO TAKE OVER JELLY FISH!
MY COMPANY FIRED ME, BUT I TOOK THIS PLACE AS MY SEVERANCE PACKAGE INSTEAD OF CASH.
PERHAPS I'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, AS LIVE-IN LANDLORD AND MANAGER.

CONGRATS!
WELL, THE THING IS... AND I'M ONLY TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE I'M DRUNK...
HMM? YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY I INSISTED ON THE NO BOYS ALLOWED RULE WHEN I'M A MAN MYSELF?


SO... I DIDN'T WANT ANY OTHER MEN TO MOVE IN.
I WAS THE FIRST BOARDER HERE, AND, WELL...
WHEN I SAW CHIEKO IN HER KIMONO, I FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...

BEFORE I KNEW IT, YEARS HAD GONE BY AND I STILL DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
BUT THEN IN HINDSIGHT, I REALIZED MY RULE MIGHT MAKE IT A BAD IDEA FOR ME TO LET ANYONE SEE ME...
Is he one of those "plump girls in kimonos" fetishists?!
SAY WHAT ?!?!?!
WE'LL MOVE IN TOO, THEN.
SO, I GUESS AMAMIZU-KAN'S NO BOYS ALLOWED LAW IS HEREBY REPEALED.
THIS MAKES MY CRIME LESS SEVERE!
BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE MALE TOO, KURAKO!
squeeze
"A SCHEMER FALLS PREY TO HIS OWN SCHEMES"! KONG MING WAS THE FIRST TO SAY THIS.
WHY NOT? MY SISTER DOESN'T SWEAT THAT STUFF.
AND YOUR HOME ISN'T EXACTLY THE RIGHT PLACE FOR ME...
MOM SAYS SHE'LL START VISITING ME IN TOKYO SOMETIMES!
YES, SHE DOES.
WHAT?
I'M MOVING IN, FYI!
R-REALLY?!


"A LIFE WITH NO USE FOR MEN."
WOW...
AMAMIZU-KAN WILL GET EVEN LIVELIER NOW!
A LIFE WITH NO USE FOR MEN.
TSUKIMI, MAYBE YOU DON'T NEED A MAN RIGHT NOW...
...BUT THE THING IS, I NEED YOU.
JUST LIKE I CHANGED YOU...
...YOU CHANGED ME, TOO.


...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I LEARNED THAT THIS REALLY IS WHERE I BELONG.
...I'VE SEEN SO MANY COLORFUL SIDES OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT I NEVER KNEW BEFORE...
THANKS TO YOU, KURANOSUKE...
YOU KNOW...
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO MAKE CLOTHES HERE.
I DON'T CARE IF AMAMIZU-KAN IS INSIDE A LITTLE FISH BOWL.
KURANOSUKE...
SO...
TSUKIMI...

...the prince and the princess lived happily ever after in the castle.
Hmm? You want to know if they get married?
And so...
...WELCOME TO OUR CASTLE.
Take it from Clara: as long as there's love, it's all good.
This is a neo princess story for the 21st century! ☆
There's no need to get hung up on forms and institutions, is there?
To you who are freer and more beautiful than anyone...
I hope you'll keep on being true to the things you love.
And there you have it. Thank you so much, everyone. Take care!

2017.8.7. Akiko Higashimura

<Princess Jellyfish/End>